JOHN BULL

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The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

Another New Year! More good wishes and more good resolutions! More sad thoughts and more bright hopes! Happy indeed is he who, taking stock to-day, finds the balance on his side. For what new interests, what new hopes, can ever atone for the loss of one dear friend? "Friend"—the greatest, noblest word in our language; denoting the rarest and most precious thing given to us by the gods, and the purest sacrifice we are capable of offering up to them. He who has made such sacrifice has paid all his debts. He can await the Great Day with complaisance. For him there is no such thing as a Happy New Year. He lives for ever in the old ones. May there be few amongst our readers, this New Year's Day, who will have cause to re-echo these thoughts.

Let us rather hope that, looking back upon the past twelve months, the army of Bullites may find themselves without quarrel with the departing year, and ready to meet its successor with bright hope and happy expectation. One thousand nine hundred and ten! But that is only Anno Domini. What, think you, is the year's real number? Shall we say three hundred million and ten? That is somewhere about it, as far as the men of science can get. And how many worlds are there in the universe? Upwards of a hundred millions in our own hemisphere—and the Earth one of the smallest of the lot! Come, come—we must not give ourselves any airs this New Year's Day. We may be, and probably are, part of a wonderful scheme of Life, ever marching forward towards a wondrous destiny—but we have a mighty long way yet to go. So let us try to take a true perspective, and whilst realising how utterly little it is that we can do, at the same time realise that the sum of it all is comprised in the sincerity of the wish we to-day express, with warm hearts and disinterested purpose, to each other as we extend the hand and say, "A Happy New Year."

Just let us also cast our minds a year forward. We will not dwell upon the thought of the places in our respective lives now full of joyous being which may then be empty and desolate. To some of us there can be no dread of further shock—to others, its reality will be stern enough when it comes. We will put aside the personal aspect and think just for a moment of the corporate life of our country. The political crisis will be over. For good or ill, the word will have been spoken—and things will be much as they are! Hundreds of thousands of sermons will have been preached—and the world will be much as it is. We shall all have fought and struggled and wrangled and wrestled—and what about? And yet we fancy we discern fain glimmerings of a change. In our Election Manifesto, on another page, and in our Cartoon, we have given an indication of it. The last days of the nineteenth century saw the doom of ecclesiastic domination and of social tyranny. Who knows but that the first decade of the twentieth may witness the end of the old Party system of government, and the birth of a new political era?

Of our own journal—what can we say? Thanks to the generous appreciation of an ever-increasing public, JOHN BULL has become a wonderful—in many respects the most wonderful—institution in the journalistic world. In the matter of circulation, of advertisement revenue, of public influence, its position is unique. We hope we have used its power to some good purpose. We hope that in the year now dawning it may continue to interest, to instruct and to amuse its readers—and to pay its proprietors, and thus contribute its small quota to the realisation of our mutual hopes for a Happy New Year.

This is the sort of thing which turns the public against some of the Liberal candidates. It is an East Islington elector who writes :—

> Last night I attended a meeting in suport of the Liberal candidate at the Highbury Athenæum, which meeting was addressed by Mr. Augustine Birrell. The meeting commenced with a hymn from the Congregational Hymnal, and one of the speakers made use of these extraordinary words: "Let us seek help from on high, watch and pray. Our cause is the cause of right, and therefore the cause of God. We are fighting for God's cause." I am not a religious man, but to make use of the name of the Deity in this manner at a party meeting appears to me to be rank blasphemy. I can understand this sort of thing being done in Wales, where the chapel screw is applied pretty freely and openly, but surely the Liberal party do not expect to gain votes in an enlightened division of London by the use of this ranting hypocrisy. I am a business man, and my experience has taught me that when a man openly parades his religion in business matters, it is wise to watch that man very carefully.

And *this* is the sort of thing which discredits the Temperance movement. This time it is a Brecon reader who writes :—

> Brecon (South Wales) elected a Rechabite Mayor named William Morgan—a local builder. As is the custom here, he attended divine service, on the Sunday following his election, with the other members of the Corporation. After service they returned to the Guildhall, where the usual refreshments—wine and biscuits—were offered to the company at the expense of the Mayor. A busy and presumptuous member of the Council, Councillor E. M. Meredith, a prominent Rechabite of the Adelaide (Brecon) Rechabite Tent, reported this terrible crime to his brother Rechabites in "council assembled" at their next tent meeting, and as a consequence the Mayor was fined 5s. for his violating one of the rules, though the Mayor did not take any of the wine.

Some of our hyper-moral legislation is calculated to induce a fine sneaky disposition in the rising generation. The other day a member of our staff in a moment of forgetfulness, sent his son, aged fourteen, to the nearest tobacconist for a quarter of a pound of smoking mixture. "How old are you?" asked the lady in charge. Then, "You do not want to smoke it yourself?" The boy reassured her. "Well, I don't know whether I ought to serve you," said she. "However, put it in your pocket while you are in the shop, and don't let the policeman see it." As he had frequently brought home from other shops similar packets quite undisturbed, the youth was naturally perplexed; but being a Boy Scout, of course he had no difficulty in circumventing the village constable; but his narrative set his proud father wondering whether the law, or the lady's misreading of it, was calculated to make for the boy's manliness and respect towards authority.

We have every desire to see all the unemployed given work by the public authorities, for it is uneconomical to either let them starve into inefficiency or to keep them in idleness—apart from all question of sentiment or sympathy. But if the public owe a duty to the unemployed, the unemployed owe something to the public. Some of them seem to forget this, and so make harder the task of those who voice their needs. For example, information reaches us that certain of the Manchester unemployed, having performed only part of the labour for which they were paid, and being placed on their honour to make up the arrears, failed to do the right thing. Out of fifty, six only fulfilled their promise, and two of these were assaulted and called traitors. The real unemployed should dissociate themselves from the chronic loafers.

It behoves the managements of the Transatlantic lines to do more than make "indignant denials" in the matter of steerage accommodation. We know that it is unsafe to rely absolutely upon the uncorroborated complaints of the casual emigrant, that there are "grousers" on every passenger boat, no matter how well furnished she may be. But when independent investigators declared that "the surroundings offended every sense," and that "not one young woman among the steerage passengers escaped immoral overtures," it is not enough to indulge in lofty pooh-poohs. The lines must demand and insist upon the fullest inquiry not only into the allegations of a "general air of immorality" (which may mean much or little, for ocean ozone is a powerful tonic), but also those of physical filth.

A correspondent suggests that local authorities might very well remind their employees from time to time that they are servants of the public and not masters. He applies the suggestion in this way. Recently he took a new house and began to move his furniture into it. He had been at this only a few days when he received a peremptory demand for rates due next March, followed within forty-eight hours by a personal visit from the collector, and within another forty-eight hours by a second demand for payment by return of post, and a remonstrance for keeping the local authorities waiting for their money! If they jump on him in this way before he has taken possession of his house, he trembles to think what they will do with him when he becomes a real resident. Probably they will insist on his paying a year or two in advance or in default suffering seven days, without the option. Meanwhile, the whole business strikes him as funny. A sense of humour often saves a situation.

A curious point in connection with the Children Act was raised at Manchester the other day. A sailor was charged with neglecting his child, aged seven weeks, now dead. The Act lays it down that if a child is suffocated in a bed in which some other person of over 16 years of age is sleeping, and the latter went to bed drunk, the child shall be considered to have been "neglected." There may be some reason in this provision; but it needs administering with discretion. Fortunately the Manchester magistrate had discretion, and so the sailor got off with only the warning which the death of his offspring may be assumed to have supplied. It seems that he did go to bed drunk; but his wife lay between him and the baby; and the Bench thought that "the section had not been put in without sufficiently consulting the way in which people were compelled to sleep by force of circumstances." Exactly: the Children Act shows just that ignorance of working class conditions which has led the Liberal Government into so many mistakes.

As a rule we look with scant sympathy on memorial projects. They are generally movements promoted by a Nobody to enable him to bask on the reflected glory of a dead Somebody. The proposal hailing from Leeds, where the late Phil May was born, to place a medallion on his birthplace, to acquire for the Art Gallery some of his original drawings, and (if the money runs to it) to found a Phil May scholarship at the Leeds School of Arts, has, however, something in its favour. May was a great artist and a great humorist: a very exceptional combination. He gave pleasure to millions and helped a great many good causes. He improved newspaper art. Leeds, if it did nothing for him while he lived, may be doing well to honour him now he is dead; and there may be admirers of Phil outside Leeds who will be glad to lend the local folk a hand.

After the Upper Tooting case it may be taken for granted that there will be a woeful slump in courtesy on the London tramways, and that the pretty but enterprising damsel who enters a full car in the "sure and certain hope" of being offered a seat by the flower of his noble sex will in future have to stand till the conductor bids her begone. According to the magistrate, he who gives up his seat to a lady, or anybody else in a car already full, has forfeited his right to a place within, even though he has paid his fare. In no circumstances can standing be permitted. Will she of the deep and dreamy orbs kindly accept this (the only) intimation?

It is almost incredible that there are people in the world yet who are so criminally silly as to point firearms at other people "by way of a joke." The latest case is reported from Bradford, where one Morrell was charged with unlawfully wounding a pal named Midgeley. Morrell had promised a third party to sell a rifle for him. By way of preliminary he raised it to his shoulder, "exclaimed in a genial way" to Midgeley, "Hi up! I'm going to shoot," and thereupon blew out Midgeley's eye. "None of the parties knew the gun was loaded," there was "no ill-feeling"; and so the charge of unlawfully wounding was withdrawn, and Morrell goes unpunished. This no doubt is as it should be. Still, for our own part, we should not forgive our best friend if he blew out our eye just to see how we looked without it, or to discover whether a gun was loaded. A fool is often more dangerous than a knave.

The Edmonton Guardians are by way of making a name for themselves. They conduct their business in an atmosphere of personalities and mutual abuse. Describing one meeting in particular, a writer in a local paper says that the scene was a bear garden, such expressions as "Shut up," and "You wicked old——" being common. He adds that at one time six members were on their feet together yelling discordantly, and during the confusion the chairman submitted several resolutions and declared them carried. As the Edmonton Guardians include ladies and parsons, it is obvious that their restraining influence does not count for much, and for the future, and merely as an experiment, we suggest that the workhouse chaplain should be called in to lead off the meeting with prayer.

Ratepayers in Wimbledon are not a little surprised and indignant over the appointment of Superintendent Relieving Officer for their district. The Guardians have undoubtedly kept it dark. The salary is £250, no statement has been made in open meeting as to why the new official is necessary, or what are his duties; and when the Board "considered" the recommendations of the Finance Committee they ratified the selection without a word of comment. It is freely suggested in Wimbledon that its Poor Law officialdom is enjoying an attack of superfluititis. However this may be, it seems not unreasonable to ask that the Guardians should take the ratepayers a little more into their confidence.

It is as we anticipated. A whole army of ritualistic parsons, or "Catholic priests," as several of them love to call themselves, are after our scalp for what we said in reply to the Vicar of Stantonbury on the subject of auricular confession in the Church of England. We thank them heartily, and much as we should like to give them a run for their money, our other readers would properly resent our affording space to a seminarial controversy in which the end would never come in sight. We could give half a hundred authorities in support of our own views, and, as we have said, the ritualists have already been answered by a Special Committee of the Upper House of Convocation and the Lambeth Conference of 1878. And that will settle the matter for most people.

Even to those who like cats, there is something rather revolting in the reports of pussy being sent to the National Cat Club Show wrapped in silks and satins whilst our streets are full of children lacking flannel, not to mention boots and food. In one column the details of the costume of the pampered cat—in the next the lamentable story of London's underfed youngsters! These contrasts are the inspiration of Anarchy. Cats are dear to-day: some of them are priced at nearly two thousand pounds. The citizens of the future are very cheap.

The judge of Grimsby County Court, the other day, said a foolish thing and did a wise one. The foolish thing he said was this: "If you have a good cause you need not be afraid of a legion of barristers." Now, greater nonsense, more undiluted fiction, was never uttered by even a County Court judge; and we are glad to know that the litigant to whom it was addressed was too wise to believe it. In quite half the cases in which barristers are employed in the minor courts by powerful interests they are given a great deal too much rope. Out of deference to a fish merchant (who was the plaintiff against a railway company) and his refusal to go on with his case when suddenly confronted with counsel for the company, the judge adjourned the case. This was the wise thing. Unless perchance he comes from Billingsgate, your average fish merchant is no match for your average barrister; and we observe that another fish merchant this week has been protesting that Billingsgate isn't what it was. "Them Board schools," no doubt.

We commend to Lord Carrington the example of the Berkeley Hunt Agricultural Society. Ten years ago it invited the sons of farmers in Berkeley Vale to form classes in which to learn the latest that scientific agriculture had to teach them, and at the same time to test their practical knowledge of the land and stock that form the material of their industry. The experiment has been most satisfactory and is reflected in the up-to-date, progressive farming methods of the district and the profits therefrom. Which reminds us that a Northants rural reader, apropos a recent paragraph, asks us to urge upon the Board of Agriculture the need for impressing farmers with the desirability of utilising good pedigree bulls among their stock. We are not professional agriculturists, but we pass on the suggestion for what it is worth. We understand that there is a dearth of good store cattle just now, which our reader attributes to the lack of "go" and quality in the bulls employed. "A word from JOHN BULL would do the trick," he adds. So here it is.

By general consent, Mr. Buxton has been one of the most successful of our Postmasters-General. Alike in his concern for the public convenience and in his desire to run things smoothly with the employees of his great department, he has done well. He is now initiating a reform which has long been agitated for by the Fawcett Association, namely, the substitution of a system of employment by rotation instead of the permanent employment of sorters on certain "preferential" or "special" duties. The point is this: heretofore some of the sorters have had to do only ordinary duty, which is performed at inconvenient hours, whilst others have had to do only special or preferential duty, which is performed under more pleasant or less onerous conditions. Now the favoured duties will be performed in five-year periods by all the sorters in turn, or such of them as can be utilised in this way. It is a little matter perhaps from the outside point of view; but it is just these little matters that promote a sense of justice and good feeling, and make for efficiency in the conduct of the public's business.

When Sam Southern, aged 81, was brought before the Mayor and ex-Mayor of Basingstoke on a charge of "placing himself in a position to beg and gather alms," he had already been locked up for twenty-four hours. "When did you work last?" demanded the ex-Mayor with grotesque witlessness. That question seems to have taken the breath away from the sergeant-in-charge, for he reminded the ex-Mayor that Sam was an octogenarian. But this fact did not move the magistrates to pity or sympathy, unless indeed their reasons for sending him to prison for 14 days are to be regarded in that light; to wit, that "he would be better off in gaol." With almost equal truth it might be retorted on them that they would be better off in an asylum for the mentally afflicted, but as they will probably prefer to remain out in order to administer justice in Basingstoke, we suggest that the burgesses should invite them to a public meeting and present them with a substantial token of regard—say, half a stack of hay.

By the King's regulations, white woollen gloves are issued to the men in home regiments during winter. When the West Yorkshire Regiment was at Aldershot the Commanding Officer, who was not only concerned for his men's comfort but for their smart appearance as well, conceived the idea that khaki-coloured woollens would be equally as warm and look better with khaki uniforms; also that they would necessitate less constant washing. This idea, popular with the men, was copied into all the other regiments at Aldershot, for under the regulations, when an article of equipment is not taken into wear, the men are compensated, and this compensation enables those in the Aldershot command to purchase the khaki gloves outside barracks. Early in December, however, the West Yorkshires left the Aldershot command for Colchester, and came under the temporary command of Colonel Snow, who peremptorily banned the khaki woollens as a breach of the King's Regulations, and insisted on white—shall we say "Snowy"?—gloves or none. This tactless order is keenly resented in the Colchester garrison, and we are informed that rather than wear the white gloves with their khaki the West Yorkshires stuff their blue-cold hands into their trouser pockets whenever they get a chance so to do. We can tell Colonel Snow that if he wants to make himself unpopular with his men he is going about it in the right way. Petty tyrannies on the part of superior officers never "pay."

Very properly the Hertfordshire County Council have directed their clerk to write to their managers requesting them not to allow the schools to be used in school hours to further the purpose of political candidates. At every election schoolchildren are used as pawns in the party game. An instance in point comes from All Saints' School, in Hertford, where Lady Faudel-Phillips has appeared during school hours and introduced to the scholars the wife of the Tory candidate, Lady Rolleston, who told them to request their fathers to vote for her husband. In order to impress the fact she told the teacher to write the name of Sir John Rolleston on the blackboard. This is altogether indefensible. But a nice little song, such as the kiddies sung at South Hackney—"Vote, vote, vote for Mr. Bottomley"—is quite another matter.

From the joke to the trick, and as political tricks go, we are bound to say it is pretty. A circular is being distributed among the electors of South Islington informing them that unless the Tory agent hears to the contrary, their names will be printed on the list of those supporting the candidature of Mr. Faber. He ought to get a big committee.

Speaking at the opening of a new Temperance Hall at Brierley Hill the rector said that "with all due respect to the police force, they wanted an officer of their own, paid by results, then they would get more convictions and more drunkards placed on the black list than was at present the case." The suggestion seems to us as wicked as it is absurd. Contemplate the possibilities of a policeman paid by results in the service of the pure and incorruptible spirits of the Brierley Temperance Hall under the leadership of this remarkable vicar. Such an officer would certainly have to manufacture sufficient drunks every week to support his wife and family, and even then he would have to lay in a certain number of extras to earn his supper beer. The vicar may take our word for it that it is too horrible to think of.

Here is another sample of Jersey justice. A woman was charged with selling adulterated milk. Her defence was that she did not know the milk was adulterated, that she had never added a drop of water to it, that the milk taken was part of that she was saving for her own daughter, who was sick in the house, that it was exactly as she had received it from the farmer, and that she "only sold two pots of milk a day, and it was not likely that she was going to tamper with the milk for the sake of threepence." It was admitted by the magistrate that even pure milk was often below standard. "He was satisfied," he said, "that in some cases there was a difference of 100 per cent. in the quality of the milk produced. He was extremely sorry not to be able to assist Mrs. Le Duc (the defendant). He would fine her ten shillings, but he assured her that although he condemned her to pay the fine he was by no means satisfied as to her guilt." We earnestly recommend George Vaudin, Esq., the magistrate in question, to get off the bench at once and take a large quantity of mental food—for preference, thistles.

Some Rhyl publican narrowly escaped getting into trouble the other day through a drunken woman; and we mention the case as a warning to cocksure policemen anxious to obtain convictions for serving drunken persons on licensed premises. The woman was found in the street at noon "blind to the world." Naturally the magistrate was anxious to know how and where she got into this state so early in the day. She was quite frank. She had drunk the beer, she said, before she left home. "That just shows that publicans may be sometimes blamed unnecessarily," said the magistrate's clerk. It does. What says Mr. Leif Jones?

We shall have to keep a sharp eye on the police and magistrates of Didsbury. The former seem to be resorting to the methods of the Continental Agents-provocateurs in connection with persons suspected of offences under the Betting Acts; and the Bench appear to be winking at it. A Mr. Alexander Shepherd, of Didsbury, has been fined £13 and costs for using his house to receive money for bets and for paying out winnings. The police went to his house, and "failed to find any evidence of money received except the letters they had themselves sent, and one other with a postal order in it." We object to policemen sending postal orders to a supposed betting man, then raiding his house and finding their own communications and getting a conviction practically on these alone. It is not quite English.

That cheque for £10,000 forwarded to Mr. Winston Churchill by Mr. J. K. Craig, the Dundee jute manufacturer, to assist the campaign for Free Trade will probably not be forgotten. It is worth a baronetcy, at the very least.

It is astonishing how many people the law of England will allow you to injure in return for a paltry fine! If you jump on a policeman's chest when he tries to run you in for putting a shilling on a horse, or drinking a redundant glass of ale, you may get anything from a month upwards. But if you sell cheese and butter made partly from scarlet fever germs, and infect a whole neighbourhood, you are let off with 40s. and costs. We are speaking by the book. At Wrexham the other day a farmer failed to notify that there was scarlet fever on his farm, and he went on making cheese and butter—which are rapid accumulators of germs. Medical evidence showed that "probably nine cases of scarlet fever had been due to his neglect, one of the cases having nearly proved fatal, and in four other cases the patients would be permanently injured." The Wrexham County magistrates evidently temper justice with mercy, but of the wrong sort.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

Apropos the organising of demonstrations which, in view of the near approach of the General Election, are greatly in evidence, a story is told of the late T. M. Kelly, the agitator. This gentleman, who was always on the look-out for business, had written to Cecil Rhodes, saying that he intended to organise a grand demonstration of working men to welcome him on his arrival in England as the man who had extended our Empire. Mr. Rhodes was pleased with the idea, and Kelly then proceeded to inform him that, in order to make the demonstration a success, it was necessary that he should have at least £500 on account of expenses. "I thought," said the great Empire builder, "that this was to be a spontaneous gathering. In fact, the whole value of the demonstration would consist of its spontaneity." "If you knew the British working man half as well as I do," replied Kelly, "you would know that *if you want spontaneity you've blooming well got to pay for it.*"

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

THE REV. H. HEAP, OF HUDDERSFIELD, WHO THINKS THAT "TH METHODISM THAT GOES TO THE THEATRE, PLAYS CARDS, ATTENDS BALLS, AND PROMOTES WHIST DRIVES STANDS LITTLE CHANCE OF ETERNAL SALVATION."

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits for births, deaths, or marriages, which creep into the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!

OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.

WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For stating that "Four other members of the crew WERE DROWNED; *but the second mate had an even more* MIRACULOUS ESCAPE,"

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that an exhibition was offered, tenable at the College, "to the most deserving PUP *of the school,"*

THE CAMBRIAN NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing: "Village Hall, Knotty Ash. Mash Ball Boxing Night. DRESS OPTIONAL,"

AN ADVERTISER IN *THE LIVERPOOL ECHO*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising: "A SHOCKING SIGHT. *A 36 Years' Sufferer Cured,"*

A. KINGSLEY & CO.
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "a boy was very small for his SIZE,"

LLOYD'S WEEKLY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing that "none other than a hard, conscientious worker need WASTE TIME *in answering this advertisement,"*

AN ADVERTISER IN *THE SCOTSMAN*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing "Large unfurnished ROOM *to let,* ATHERLEY PLATED RIMS, DUNLOP TYRES, NEW,"

AN ADVERTISER IN *THE SOUTHERN ECHO*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "If the goods were kept OUT *they would not come* IN,"

MR. URE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For alluding to a man "uttering a LOUD OATH UNDER HIS BREATH,"

THE DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the King will in PRISON *decorate the boy hero,"*

THE CARDIFF EVENING EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the "Chapelton Church Magazine," "Mourning orders made on the shortest notice. Agent for DYING *and Cleaning."*

D. LASKY, TAILOR, OF CHAPELTOWN,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a man applied for a licence and "a decree FOR THE FULL AMOUNT WAS GIVEN,"

THE NEWTOWNARDS CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "The Clydebank Band STOOD ALONE WITH POLTON MILLS NEXT TO THEM,"

THE GLASGOW CORRESPONDENT TO *THE BRITISH BANDSMAN*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For making his hero throw his cigar into the gutter and say: "WE MUST GO INTO THAT BY AND BY,"

THE AUTHOR OF THE SERIAL STORY IN *THE DAILY MIRROR*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing that "Refreshments, GAMES AND MUSIC FORM THE MENU,"

THE NEWCASTLE PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

MR. BOTTOMLEY'S ELECTION MANIFESTO.

OUR EDITOR PROCLAIMS THE NEW POLICY OF A DEMOCRATIC, BUSINESS GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Bottomley, in the course of his address to the electors of South Hackney, says:—

I am not going to indulge in empty party platitudes. I am a Democrat—by which I mean that I am a believer in free institutions. So are you—every one of you. I believe in every man and woman being given an equal chance in life. So do you—every one of you. I believe in the British Empire, and want to see it supreme in all the world—in Commerce, in Civilisation, in Power. So do you—every one of you. What, then, are we fighting about? Why are we calling ourselves by all these weird names? What does it all mean? Can it be that we are simply allowing ourselves to be used as pawns in a game of chess between professional politicians? Is there no short cut through all this maze of words and party cries? Let us see.

Suppose we apply a little COMMON SENSE. Suppose we look at things in a level-headed, BUSINESS light.

First, there comes the "TARIFF REFORMER" saying, "*I* bring you prosperity. It is true your food may cost more, but you will *earn* more." Then he will tell you how—by putting a tax on foreign manufactures.

The Business Man will reply: "We *all* want food—especially the kiddies—but we don't all manufacture goods; whilst, on the other hand, we all *use* them. *So where do I come in?*"

Then, the "FREE TRADER" will say: "By keeping our ports open to the products of all countries, we get the benefit of the cheapest market for our purchases."

The Business Man will reply: "That's all very well, but cheapness isn't everything—*and what about* OUR SALES? By all means, take advantage of Free Imports, WHERE IT SUITS OUR PURPOSE TO DO SO—as in the case of CORN—but where we find a foreign country *taking advantage of us* BY ABUSING THE FREEDOM OF OUR PORTS, then we must checkmate them."

Then comes the SOCIALIST with *his* prescription: "Inasmuch as Land and Capital are the source of all wealth, Land and Capital"—or, as he calls it, "the means of production"—"should be in the hands of the State, to be used for the equal benefit of all."

The Business Man will reply: "Nonsense. Neither Land nor Capital is worth a fig without Intelligence and Enterprise. 'The State' is only another name for ourselves, and our Brains and our Hands are our own property. Let the 'State,' by all means, control all the PUBLIC SERVICES OF THE COUNTRY—such as Railways, Docks, Canals, Trams, Lighting and Water Works—but leave me and my family alone. I AM A BRITON."

THE "TARIFF REFORMER" AND THE "FREE TRADER" will gravely wag their heads and say: "We must raise more money for National Defence. Germany is increasing her Navy at such a rate that, unless we also keep on building new battleships, we shall soon lose our supremacy at sea."

The Business Man will reply: "Why on earth, then, don't you ask Germany what her game is? She has no Colonial and over-sea Empire to justify her in embarking upon a competition with us in Naval strength, and, *unless she can furnish a satisfactory explanation*, WE HAD BETTER USE OUR POWER, *whilst we still have it*, to put an end to the nonsense."

Here the SOCIALIST will chirp in: "Hang the Navy and the Army; they are unnecessary evils, and ought to be at once abolished."

The Business Man will reply: "The same to you."

THE SOCIAL REFORMER will warble: "Let us make everybody good by Act of Parliament."

The Business Man will reply: "That has nothing to do with politics. Let the parents and the parsons look after the morals of the children, and let the grown-up people look after their own. Protect their liberty—their persons, their lawful possessions, their homes; give them just laws—with equality of opportunity for all; promote economy and efficiency in the public service; make provision for the education of the young and the care of the old—there is the function of Government."

THE HOUSE OF LORDS will be one of the questions constantly before you. Some will say: "Leave it as it is"; others: "Limit its right of veto"; and others again: "Abolish it altogether."

The Business Man will reply: "Let us have a real Senate or Revising Chamber, as a check upon hasty legislation and the tyranny of the accidental and temporary majority of either Party. But let it be constituted in such a way as to inspire the respect of the nation. Abolish the HEREDITARY PRINCIPLE (by which a man claims the right to sit in the House simply because he is the son of his father), and whilst giving the Peers a share of representation, let the rest of the assembly consist of experienced public servants, of mature judgment and knowledge."

UNEMPLOYMENT "EXPERTS" will come to you saying: "Let us have Labour Exchanges and Distress Committees and Trades Boards."

The Business Man will reply: "Let us have a real BOARD OF TRADE, consisting of BUSINESS MEN, to watch the currents of Trade and Commerce; to find opportunities for profitable expenditure upon public works; to keep an eye on SWEATED LABOUR—Home and Foreign; and to develop our own resources."

THE PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN will tell you that you are a "free and enlightened people," holding the destinies of the Empire in your hands; that you live under a system of representative government, and that the House of Commons reflects your divine will.

The Business Man will reply: "Fiddlesticks. Not half the men (to say nothing of the women) are on the Parliamentary register, and only about three-quarters of that half is able to vote; and then, such is our clumsy system of elections, that either of the official parties may by virtue of a small majority of votes—OR EVEN BY AN ACTUAL MINORITY—secure an overwhelming preponderance in Parliament. In other words, half of the men of the country, and all of the women, are 'outlanders.'"

Meanwhile, we look calmly on. Here we are, the richest country in the world—appalling wealth on the one hand and appalling poverty on the other; Unemployment, Pauperism, declining Trade all around us.

What is the remedy? *I will tell you.* LET US HAVE A COMMON SENSE BUSINESS GOVERNMENT, based upon the true principles of an enlightened, self-respecting and self-reliant democracy. Let us drop Party cant; we are ALL Democrats to-day. A Liberal policy, in the true sense, is of the spirit and genius of the British race. Education (such as we have); Political power (such as we enjoy); Religious freedom (so far as we have won it); the care of the old (to the extent to which we have assumed it)—are all evidences of this truth.

But, gentlemen, what of the New Problems? When men and women are educated, they begin to THINK. And when they begin to think, they begin to SEE. And when they begin to see, they begin to UNDERSTAND. And, understanding, they will exclaim:—

> "AT LAST WE HAVE IT. A BIG START IN THE WORLD'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, DUE PARTLY TO NATURAL ADVANTAGES AND PARTLY TO ACCIDENT, AND A PREPONDERATING INFLUENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE WORLD, DUE TO THE MARTIAL SPIRIT OF OUR FOREFATHERS, OUR EARLY WEALTH AND OUR ISLAND HOME—THESE HAVE TURNED OUR HEADS AND LULLED US TO SLEEP. WHILST THE VOTERS HAVE BEEN WRANGLING AND THE POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN PRATING, OTHER NATIONS HAVE BEEN QUIETLY COMING ALONG. THEY ARE RIGHT UPON US—RIGHT UPON US."

And in that moment they will turn to their rulers and say, "Stop this foolery and COME TO BUSINESS."

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.

By W. L. F. Wastell.

You can pretty well gauge the extent of a man's wisdom by the number of New Year's resolutions he forms. The really wise man makes none. He knows better.

Some attain to this wise abstention from resolution-making only after long years; others, never. One man I knew attained this wisdom in the most sudden manner imaginable. On a certain New Year's Day he stood in his office and announced his intention of resolutely refraining from the use of strong language during the year that had just dawned. Knowing him as I did, I was simply appalled at the magnitude of the task he had thus undertaken. The shrinkage of his vocabulary would be enormous. It would be depleted by about 90 per cent. Yet he looked valorously determined, and left the office with a resolute countenance that was quite impressive.

As he went out he caught his thumb in the swing-doors.

His New Year resolution had lasted just eighteen seconds by the office clock, and I maintain that no resolve was ever more completely and effectively pulverised, even though he had his thumb in his mouth all the time. He has never from that day ventured on a statement of New Year policy.

If a man feels absolutely compelled for some reason or another to make a set of New Year resolutions, he should select them judiciously. For example: that he would never wear osprey plumes in his hat; that he would never ride in a motor-'bus if he could run to a taxi-cab; that he would never assault a man capable of retaliating; that he would never take a halfpenny from a blind beggar's pannikin; and so on. Quite an imposing array of praise-worthy resolves could thus be mustered, and yet no great risks run. One cannot be too careful. A man sets out after breakfast on January 1st with the proud declaration that during the twelve months just inaugurated he will steadfastly abstain from intoxicating liquors. With many hair-breadth escapes he scrapes through the day, and returns to tea to find that a friend has sent him a case of bottled grape juice that would have made old Omar Khayyàm dance the cachuca. Between him and perjury lies but one weak cork, and in the twinkling of a cork-screw even that frail barrier is removed. Truly it is an exceptionally able-bodied resolution that sees the dawn of January 2nd.

It must be admitted, however, that occasionally New Year resolutions are not broken. Circumstances favour their being kept. There was, for instance, a young man who determined to turn over a very necessary new leaf and never again run to catch a train. Emerging from the front door full of his high resolve and buttered toast, he fell down a flight of six steps and left the hospital with two cork legs. He, at least, kept his word.

Were statistics available, I feel confident that it would be found that by far the most common New Year resolution amongst ladies is the determination to keep a diary and to make a daily entry therein without fail. It is a weird intention. Mercifully, it is short-lived. The first entry begins in the space for January 1st, and slops well over into the second week in February. It consists of a mixture of platitudes concerning the flight of Time (with poetical quotations), and of high resolves for the glad, bright New Year (with more quotations and several texts). The last entry, although actually made about January 4th, has to be placed in the space that normally belongs to April 1st. It is much shorter than the first soulful outpouring. "Saw that cat Amelia Jones. Spoilt my day." Is it not a mercy the diary idea dies young? Otherwise, what might we not find written under the date of December 31st?

It has been said that she is a poor housewife who has to resort to a "Spring clean." A house should be perennially spotless. Similarly, it may be said that he is a poor soul who, arising on New Year's Day, has to arm himself with a brand new set of resolutions to assist him in keeping a straight course. It is all very well for folks to sally forth on New Year's morning wearing unblemished and irreproachable halos, but it is long odds that before the week is out they will be playing quoits with them and betting shamelessly on the result. We know from experience that the stoutest of halos we forge for ourselves at the New Year are too hopelessly battered to be wearable in no time. Yet we still persist in making them, and fare forth hopefully.

At the risk of being howled at as an abandoned heathen, I venture to cry, "Down with New Year resolutions! Away with them all! Let them be suppressed and abolished for evermore!" But in order to hedge for safety, I suggest an alternative; to wit, to make the same old resolution do year after year. It is a simple resolve, and can be made on any day that may be found most convenient. The idea is to make a straight course right ahead through the years and strive to keep on that, or as near it as can be. When New Year's Day comes there is no demand for brain fag in worrying round for new resolutions. Same old line. Right dead straight ahead. We need not look back. We know too well the actual course has been horribly and disappointingly wobbly. There are desperate runs to starboard and fearsomely wide tacks to port. Never mind. Here is the New Year; there lies the same old course.

Heaven send us all fair winds, and may our tacks be few and short.

AN UNGRATEFUL FIRM.

THE STORY OF A DESERTED VAN.

On November 3rd, a van belonging to the Western Bakeries, Ltd. (Staines Road, Hounslow), was left unattended outside the premises of a resident of Brentford, the carman asking him to keep a look-out. Soon after, the horse dropped down asleep across the tram-track, and the resident, whom we will call Mr. X., obtained the assistance of two working men to get the animal up again and put him in the shafts. At about 5 p.m., two-and-a-half hours after it had been there, it fell down again, and once more Mr. X. got it up. He telephoned to the Western Bakeries and received a reply, saying, that there was no knowledge of the cart and horse being there, nor anyone to send for it. At 6 p.m., however, a boy came and fetched them away. Mr. X. did not expect any remuneration for his kindly act, but as he had spent money in telephoning and in remunerating the workmen who assisted him, he thought he was entitled to a word of thanks, particularly as, but for his intervention, the horse and cart would have been taken to the Police Station, and the Western Bakeries would doubtless have been fined. On pointing out the obligation in a courteous letter to the manager, he received the following insulting communication:—

> Replying to your strange letter dated November 12th, you appear to have been employed by one of our men.
>
> Whilst regretting the unusual circumstances and sympathising with you, we regret on principle being unable to help you. I should strongly advise you to appeal to the man who employed you in the case.

An independent investigation shows that the manager was alone at fault, not having sent a man to take charge of the horse and van, as he had previously arranged to do. If many firms behave in this way, the result will be that no one will ever volunteer to lend a helping hand on an emergency.

GET OUT OF THE BEATEN TRACK.

Get out of the beaten track, my boy,
  Get out of the beaten track;
Plunge into some new enterprise,
  And into it put your back.
Nelson would never have won his bays
  Nor Wellington fixed his foes,
Had they followed the old, conventional ways
  By which mediocrity goes.

It's all very well to talk about risk,
  And say that old things are best—
If Columbus had taken that view of life
  He would never have sailed to the West.
Shake off the shackles that kept you down,
  Give rein to ambition, nor slack;
And you'll never regret the day when you
  Got out of the beaten track!

Frank Moore.

Have any of our readers had any recent experience with the National Home Employment Association, Albemarle Works, Hounslow? If so, perhaps they will communicate with us;

MY ELECTION ADDRESS.

By Jim Crow.

[*Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective—cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.*]

TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND:—

Gentlemen,—Not having yet been selected by any constituency to place myself at your service, I am hesitating whether to stand simultaneously for all the divisions in the three kingdoms, or to retire temporarily from public life and wait until the present wave of prejudice, violence, lying and slander is overpast. But I have always endeavoured to subordinate my inclinations to my duty, and it occurs to me that if I now issue a succinct manifesto it may suggest itself to some patriotic body of persons to return me to Parliament. In the alternative, the people will have the representation they deserve and will be subjected during the next five or six years to the oppression of the privileged classes.

Party Machinery.

One of the first reforms which I shall advocate will be emancipation from the tyranny of parties. Parties are all very well in their way, for they sometimes press forward the demands of large bodies of persons. But the inevitable tendency is to allow all power to drift into the hands of a clique of unscrupulous organisers. You have your gangs of wire-pullers in London and at various centres. They possess large sums of money at their disposal and accumulate funds by the simple process of rewarding generous contributors. It is a case of: "Stroke my back, and I will stroke yours."

The Poor in Heart.

There are a certain number of poor, or at least poor-spirited, constituencies who are willing to accept candidates at the suggestion of the Whips. There are other constituencies who allow all initiative and executive to drift into the hands of a few local busybodies. One result of this is that an inferior class of candidate is preferred, money having more consideration than brains. But when a great party victory has been secured, the rank and file of a party become a source of weakness and inevitably lead to premature disintegration. Another result is that local interests are neglected, for your professional politician thinks only of his own professional advancement.

Holes and Corners.

Have you ever attended a meeting of a local "Four Hundred" summoned to exercise their highest rights as citizens and select the man who is to represent their interests? If the "Four Hundred" consists of twenty or thirty people, that is a fair average, and out of that number you will find that some half-dozen twist all the others round their thumbs. Now, this half-dozen are by no means types of the finest intellects or the noblest philanthropy in the division. In all probability they include that specimen of divine who cherishes unmitigated hatred for all creeds differing one jot from his own; a local solicitor with ambitions to become a Parliamentary agent; a grocer or a publican whose ill-gotten gains have conferred the importance of plutocracy. In other words, the Empire is administered by self-seeking persons chosen in holes and corners.

What is the remedy? We might have a law of associations, whereby either political organisation would be registered and its full membership would be available for public inspection. We might also have definite rules for the selection of candidates and a series of ballots to ensure the reality of the popular choice.

The Power of the Purse.

Even so, it would not be easy to discount the undue advantage possessed by money over brains. Of course, all election expenses should be paid out of the rates, and poor men who devote their best energies to the service of the country should receive a public salary sufficient to keep them out of the way of temptation. The Corrupt Practices Act should also be extended so as to include every form of indirect bribery. Otherwise, it would be much simpler to go back to the old system whereby votes were openly bought and sold.

Tinkering the Taxes.

According to most men, women, and children, the important side of politics is entirely filled with the questions of taxation and representation. I have now dealt with representation. A drastic reform of taxation is also necessary. The present method of obtaining votes consists largely in promising all manner of benefits at the expense of other people. Some will tell you that sound finance consists in taxing the foreigner, and if that were possible nothing could be more charming or patriotic. But the Birmingham plan for taxing the foreigner consists in keeping out his goods, or, at the best, in making him pay more to bring them over, while, at the same time, permitting him to tax the British consumer inordinately. It is certainly less practical than patriotic. In fact, it would only turn out to mean that the foreigner would, like the Socialist, pull out his penny and pocket your sovereign. Another method is to tax our own people and give to everybody benefits which are only required by the few. Thus, it sounds very nice to provide free tram tickets and free railway tickets to the whole population, but the only result would be that those who preferred to stay at home would have to stint themselves in order to provide facilities for renegades.

Tax Posterity.

Knowing that we cannot tax the foreigner and must not tax the voter, I insist that the only remaining system of sound finance consists in taxing posterity. After all, our forefathers taxed us, and we are still paying every day of our lives for wars with Buonaparte, and war in the Crimea, and the expulsion of Mr. Kruger. By all means let us relieve the necessities of the poor. Let us have labour bureaus and improved housing and small holdings and pensions, free food and free clothes for school children, even free amusement for the toilers. Let us also build *Dreadnoughts* to safeguard our shores, and encourage gymnastics through a territorial army and squadrons of boy scouts. But if we had to pay ready money for all this, the dispossession of dukes and the confiscation of capital would not long satisfy the growing need of a pampered populace. Let us, therefore, start a new national debt on a generous scale and abolish the greater part of existing taxation. The day of reckoning can be indefinitely deferred, at any rate throughout the lifetime of every one of us. Even though another generation may be thereby confronted with difficult problems, we shall meanwhile enjoy an era of such perfect prosperity that we may have leisure to provide for the eventual storm.

Foreign Affairs.

The remaining topic of vital interest is concerned with our relations with other countries. This, however, should be left as far as possible to experts—of whom I am one. *Quorum magna pars.* Foreign affairs are largely a game played by unscrupulous people, and unless extreme astuteness is exercised, consequences may arise capable of affecting the destinies of a whole race. Combinations of Powers may not only destroy the trade of a country, and seize colonies, but even eventually render possible a realisation of the Tory bogey of invasion. Be ye, therefore, circumspect about foreign affairs. In other words, leave them to me. This is my manifesto to the British people on the eve of an election. Vote for me, and I will vote for you and your vital interests, and the triumph of an Empire whereon the sun must never be allowed to set. Crow le veult.

HETERODOXY AND SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

We have a letter from a man who was appointed in June, 1903, Inspector of Public Conveniences under the Southend Corporation, a position he held until October, 1907, when he was dismissed. Nothing was alleged against him except that he holds heterodox opinions. He is in fact an Atheist and a Socialist. Now it seems that the Town Councillors of Southend-on-Sea, or many of them, are orthodox folk, and one of them, at the first Council meeting after his election in 1906, said "he was determined that every Socialist would have to go." Our correspondent is among them. He assures us that although an Atheist and a Socialist he has never obtruded his opinions. "I am not now," he writes, "and have not been a member of any political organization for years, and only air my opinions in a mild way in private, but people will talk, and through the loose tongue of one of my subordinates, my opinions were retailed broadcast with the inevitable result." For the last two years our correspondent has been looking for work. He is 36 years of age, and has excellent testimonials. If any of our readers can help him to employment we shall be happy to put them in touch with him.

SOME CURIOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

I can supply talkers who will say almost anything at reasonable prices.

Respectable young woman wants alternate Mondays to wash and Fridays to clean.

Can any clergyman of moderate views recommend an unfurnished country house?

Will any young gentleman with heroic instincts correspond with young lady, 24, with view to matrimony?

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

THE "TIGER" DISASTER FUND

In our issue of November 27th, we referred to the Fund for the victims of the *Tiger* disaster, and we said we should like some information as to its distribution. To that request the Mayor of Portsmouth very courteously replied in a letter which we published in our issue of December 11th, and in the course of that letter Mr. Dupree wrote :—

> The Fund was opened, and a sum of over £2,000 was subscribed. Unfortunately, shortly after this, the accident to the *Gladiator* occurred, and a further sum of £1,700 was received in respect of this, and a sum of £6,000 subscribed generally.

We do not gather from the letter how much of the £6,000 was subscribed for the *Tiger* disaster, but it must have been a substantial sum. The point to which we wish to direct attention is the action of the Committee in dealing with the £9,860 subscribed. This large sum was subscribed to benefit the sufferers from the two disasters, *i.e.*, those who were dependent upon the men who lost their lives in the *Tiger* and the *Gladiator*, or who in one way or another were prejudiced by the disaster. But instead of distributing this money amongst the sufferers, the Committee are doling it out. In the abstract of receipts and payments sent us by the Mayor of Portsmouth, we find that no less than £9,000 of the £9,860 subscribed has been lent to the Portsmouth Corporation for 25 years, and that the payments between April 15th, 1908, and March 31st, 1909, to the sufferers from the two disasters only amounted to £330 4s. 6d. In an accompanying memorandum explaining the scheme that has been adopted, it is said that it provides for each widow to receive an allowance not exceeding 6s. per week (irrespective of rank), and 2s. 6d. per week for each child dependent upon the mother. These allowances it is expressly stated are "subject to good behaviour, and are not to be claimed as a right." And "any assignment, sale, or contract relating to an allowance will be void." A Portsmouth correspondent, whose son was lost in the *Tiger*, writes to us protesting against the adoption of this scheme. He tells us that he has received a letter from the Rev. W. Hawksley, vicar of All Saints, Portsea, stating that he had received from the crews of H.M.S. *Berwick* and H.M.S. *King Edward VII.* a sum of money for distribution amongst the relatives; that this sum was duly paid out to the people for whom it was intended, and that he himself got £4 of it; the total sum handed to the vicar being £125, which was distributed amongst 30 families. Our correspondent contends that the course taken by Mr. Hawksley was that which ought to have been taken by the Committee which dealt with the *Tiger-Gladiator* Fund, and there seems to us much force in the contention. Our correspondent writes:

> It was only after the mishap to the *Gladiator* that any suggestion was made to form a common permanent Naval Disaster Fund, and I cannot therefore see that the self-appointed Committee were justified in allocating the funds of the one to the other. If a person gives 1s. to a fund being raised for the benefit of Jones, who has met with an accident, the treasurer of that fund would not be justified in giving even a penny to Robinson, who also had met with an accident.

And this, which seems to us the commonsense and right view of the matter, is supported by a judgment just delivered by Mr. Justice Eve. It was an action for a declaration that moneys subscribed for the relief of the widows and orphans of the fishermen who lost their lives off Flamboro' Head on February 5th, 1909, were applicable for the relief of the widows, orphans and dependents of the six fishermen, and ought not to be treated as a permanent fund for such widows, orphans and dependents, and for the relief of similar cases of distress. The action was brought by a widow as a *cestui que trust* against the defendants as trustees of a fund subscribed for the relief of the widows and orphans of particular fishermen, and in giving judgment Mr. Justice Eve decided that she must succeed. Without reflecting in any way upon the Committee who have been entrusted with the Fund, he decided that the widows and orphans of the fishermen concerned must be properly provided for before there can be any thought of a permanent fund. By that he means not that there shall be a dole to them of 6s. a week, but that the Fund shall be so dealt with that they may obtain immediate and substantial benefit from the charity of the public. If after this has been done upon a liberal basis there is any balance left, the Court will decide how that balance is to be disposed of. Thus Mr. Justice Eve's decision supports the contention of our Portsmouth correspondent that a Committee entrusted with public moneys subscribed for the purpose of benefiting particular individuals, and of giving them the immediate relief involved in such benefit, are not entitled to fund the money. It is not for them to create a permanent fund upon conditions which only enable them to dole out a few shillings a week as a matter of grace to the sufferers to whom the fund belongs. They must apply it as those who created the fund intended them to apply it.

It would seem then that in acting as they have done the Committee of the Portsmouth Fund have acted *ultra vires*. Be that as it may, the Mayor of Portsmouth and his co-trustees will, we are sure, agree with us that before lending the Corporation of Portsmouth £9,000 it was their duty to provide for the present necessities of those who had suffered by the *Tiger* and *Gladiator* disasters. Now, we have already directed attention to one case in which the Mayor admits that relief was not given, and defends the refusal to give it on the ground that the claim was made by the father of one of the victims "who had nobody dependent upon him but his wife." Even then we should have thought that he might well have some claim upon the Fund, but this is not the only case where what we consider legitimate claims have been ignored. The following is a case sent to us by a correspondent well acquainted with the facts. He writes :—

> A poor widow, Emma Smith, who has worked for me on and off for some four years, doing washing and cleaning, lost her son, Harry Smith, a stoker in the *Tiger* disaster.
>
> She had lost her husband some years previously, leaving behind him also a crippled daughter (who had lost a leg) to provide for. The son joined the Navy, and the mother and daughter managed to exist on what little she could earn by charing and cleaning, with the assistance of her son, who managed to allow her sufficient to pay her rent of two rooms and keep a home together for them.
>
> At the time of the disaster she was expecting a little he had written to tell her he had saved for her to help to keep her going, and which now lies with him at the bottom of the sea. And it is only those who have experienced such a calamity could realise the painful distress the disaster caused her. Her case was represented by a minister and other friends at Woolwich to the Committee as a most deserving, necessitous one, and Miss Weston, at Portsmouth, was communicated with, who promised to do what she could for her. The reply she got in effect was that she could not show that she was dependent upon her son, and so her case could not be entertained.
>
> Now, sir, I venture to think that the Fund was subscribed to by a generous and sympathising public with the object of consoling and relieving the mental and physical distress of the sufferers by the disaster, without regard to who or what the dependents were, knowing fullwell that every man of that ill-fated crew was some poor mother's son. And surely it would come as a shock and slight to the feelings of generous subscribers to learn that £9,000 was lying idle, while one of the victims had a mother and crippled sister in want of assistance.
>
> And I think you will agree with me that the poor mother suffers quite enough by the loss of her dead boy, without anything else, to qualify her to participate in the Fund.

Here it will be seen that a woman was largely dependent upon her son, and yet when she applies for relief, she is told that her case is outside the limits fixed by the Relief Committee!

"John Bull" Cartoons.

In response to a widespread request on the part of our readers we have decided to reproduce our two recent cartoons, "About That Gauntlet" and "The Political Pudding," in postcard form, and the same may now be obtained from all bookstalls and newsagents at the price of one penny each, or may be ordered in large quantities from

THE PUBLISHERS,

MESSRS. ODHAMS LIMITED,

67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

AN ELECTION TEST.

By A. J. Anderson.

"What's your religion, sir?"

The candidate drew himself up stiffly; then he laughed. "I'm afraid it's my private affair," he explained.

"Thank you, sir. That's what I wanted to get at. You shall have my vote, safe enough."

* * * * *

It is all very well for Mr. Bottomley to found the John Bull League and advocate a Business Parliament. It is excellent—excellent as far as it goes—but we electors want something more from our candidates. We want the policy of non-interference in private matters. We are growing very tired of being "legislated" for.

* * * * *

You see, it's like this: Mr. Lloyd George and many of the present Government have been brought up in a religion which teaches them that they are the elect and that the rest of us—some seventy per cent. of the population—are brands to be snatched from the burning. They have sucked in the theory that they are their "brothers' keepers," and this is the key to the Budget.

* * * * *

Personally, I do not think that Mr. Lloyd George wants to penalise the brewers. I think that he has been brought up to imagine that public-houses are the devil's nursery; and, although he may have become broader himself, he has to live up to the standard of his sisters, his cousins, and his aunts, and also his constituents. This is why he has adopted the absurd Budget paradox of increasing the National revenue by taxing what his particular creed calls "sin." He might just as well put a tax on brothels. Public-houses may be an evil, or they may not.

* * * * *

The Nonconformist Conscience has decreed that public-houses are dens of iniquity. When the Nonconformist Conscience has crossed the Channel, it goes into the public-house and orders coffee, only there it calls the public-house a "café"!

* * * * *

If public-houses are bad, they ought to be shut up, not taxed. If they are houses of refreshment, which have a tendency to drift into drinking dens, they ought to be cleansed; the best way to cleanse a place is to let in light and air.

* * * * *

Now I have an infirmity, and my doctor has forbidden me alcohol; therefore I drink milk and soda. The milk and soda in the D. E. F. shops is not particularly good; the milk and soda in the pubs. is excellent; but I dare not go into a pub. for fear I shall meet Mrs. Grundy as I come out. This is wrong, very wrong! I ought to be able to take Mrs. Grundy and Monica into a pub, and order tea for propriety, an ice for frivolity, and a milk and soda for myself. Then Johnny Drinktoomuch would put a check on himself, lest he should make propriety frown and sweet frivolity grow red. The foreigners manage their social matters like this, and, consequently, drunkenness is seldom seen except at conscription time.

* * * * *

Jones buys a bottle of whisky at his grocer's, drinks it in his bedroom, and sleeps off the fumes; Jones is respectable. Smith goes into a public-house for a milk and soda; therefore Smith is disreputable.

* * * * *

No one wants Mr. George to frequent bars; his private life is his own concern. A man may be a teetotaler, a non-smoker, and a vegetarian, so long as he does not force his opinions and the opinions of his particular sect on others. When a private person forces his private opinions on others, he is a bore; when he becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer and forces the tenets of his sect on the Nation, by means of taxes, he becomes insufferable.

* * * * *

Nonconformity has decreed that beer spells sin, that smoking is vice, and taverns are pest houses. It has not the pluck to prohibit drink and tobacco, and win our respect for its consistency. It taxes these vices and saves its own pocket whilst it penalises the "sinner." Then it chuckles to itself, and goes in to prayers.

It might have been possible to make the public-houses more like the foreign cafés, and let in the light and air of public opinion—every other nation in Europe has done so—but the Budget is all the other way. The working-man has to pay more for beer and 'baccy, and brings home less money to his wife; but, then, this working-man would not be a class-member, and Mr. George has been taught to "plunder the Egyptians."

* * * * *

If the nation could only realize how much of the present Budget is planned to please the local preachers, and the deacons, and the deacons' wives——!

* * * * *

A man's religion is his own affair, and he has a perfect right to be a Protestant or a Papist, or even a Mumbo-Jumbo worshipper; but at the General Election we must see that our local candidate does not make his private religion a plank in his platform. This is what Nonconformists have a trick of doing.

AN OLD AGE PENSION ABSURDITY.

A reader tells us that he has noticed in John Bull lately several instances of "hard lines," and he wants to know what we think of an incident he proceeds to describe. Our correspondent has for the past three years been supporting his wife's father, who is 75 years of age. When the Old Age Pension scheme was started he applied for a pension, but was told that his father-in-law was disqualified. It seems that in the years 1890-1, the old man had resided in Jersey and the authorities have decided that this disqualifies him. Jersey is not in the United Kingdom. The old man has not lived continuously in the United Kingdom for 20 years, and so he loses his pension. True, all told, he has lived in the United Kingdom 73 years, and he is in urgent need. True, too, that a foreigner who has become naturalized and lived in the United Kingdom less than one-third of the 73 years of our old friend may claim the pension, but because the old man happened to be out of the country for two years 18 years ago he loses it! Could absurdity go farther?

CLOSE UP!

(A rejoinder to "Clear the Course." See John Bull *December 18th.)*

Come all true Britons, sing the song
  Of country, home, and King.
Gird on your armour—march along,
To save the "Empire," right the wrong,
To crush the Socialistic throng,
  Who anarchy would bring.

Come all true Britons, shout the lay
  Of England's mighty power;
Let every true man seek the fray
And fight the fight with those who say
England has lost her place to-day—
  Attack them every hour.

Come all true Britons, let us sing
  Of battles on the sea;
Now close your ranks, and fight the "Thing"
Which fain would on our country bring
Disaster—but upon the wing
  Soon Socialists will be.

Come all true Britons, hail the flag,
  The pride of Englishmen
Spare not the traitors who would drag
Our banner as a muddy rag,
Whose only thoughts are self—and brag—
  Close up, true Englishmen.

Come all true Britons, fight the fight,
  Stand steadfast at your door.
To save the Empire show your might,
Fall into line—*yours* is the right
To keep old England's fame as bright
  As in the days of yore.

Come all true Britons, let us take
  These men with but one aim—
To serve *themselves* and money make
Regardless of the Empire's stake,
And then for our country's sake
  To solitude and shame.

Laurence Bresly.

CATCH BARGAINS.

IS IT FAIR AND JUST TRADING?

How strange it is that as soon as Christmas comes near there are always firms that commence to advertise wonderful bargains—goods sold far under cost price—things that you must have, and cannot possibly do without. They don't make any profit on these extraordinary bargains—according to their advertisements—but are selling them only to give you an idea of what their furniture, or whatever they sell, is like.

Profit—why they would scorn the idea of making money at this time of the year. They do not want it. They want just the reverse—they like to lose money in order to give the British public a Christmas gift. We don't think.

Is it not absurd—on the face of it—that firms, established for the purpose of making a profit, should lose money at one season of the year more than at any other? The whole matter can be explained in one of two ways. Either these great "bargains" are not bargains at all, the goods not being worth the money charged—or, secondly, the purchasers of other articles than the ones advertised have to pay more to make up the loss. Personally, we should think the former more correct.

Anyhow, whichever way you look at it it is unfair trading, and we should not countenance this class of business by allowing the advertisements of such firms to appear in our columns.

Perhaps the greatest culprits are to be found amongst the lower class of the hire-purchase house furnishers. Now we are not going to run the hire-purchase system down, as a system. What we want to make quite clear to all readers of JOHN BULL is this. The system is good and useful. It is the abuse of the system, by low class firms, that the public should beware of. Our readers know that we never hold a brief for one firm more than another, provided everything is straightforward and above board, but when we see the public supporting—through lack of knowledge—firms that cannot—or will not, it is the same thing—give fair value for money spent, it is always our way to point out to them exactly what they are doing.

There are firms that do a high-class and straightforward business on the gradual payment system who must not be confused with other houses that turn out shoddy and roughly-made furniture. Without doubt the first house in the trade is the Midland Furnishing Company, Ltd., of 15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

While we are speaking of the Midland Furnishing Company, perhaps it would not be out of place to give a word of praise to their business methods. They are beyond reproach. No scandal or suspicion of sharp dealing has ever been associated with their name.

Their gradual payment system is simplicity itself. You select your goods—everything is marked in plain figures—and you can extend your payments over one, two, three, or more years without any extra charge whatsoever. If you live too far away to make a personal selection, write for their free guide and catalogue, and select from that. They ask you for no deposit, and under no circumstances is any interest added.

If you live in the country, but prefer to come to town to select personally, the firm pay your fare upon any order of £30 worth and upwards.

They plan and lay carpets and linos free, and pack and deliver goods without charge. Should you prefer to pay cash, they allow you 5 per cent. discount.

Do not forget to write for their free guide and catalogue, and whatever you do don't forget their address—15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C. Call and look round; say JOHN BULL sent you. They will be delighted to show you anything you like without any obligation to yourself.

THE WORKS' OFFICE AND AN EMPLOYEE.

SUMMARILY DISMISSED WITHOUT REASON AFTER TWENTY YEARS' SERVICE.

Robert Wallace has called upon us to complain of his treatment by H.M. Office of Works. Wallace was a furniture porter there for some 20 years up to May 5th last, and he was thought so well of that in February, 1907, Mr. H. W. Ingram, the then Controller of Supplies, gave him upon the occasion of his applying for the position of Keeper of the Sessions House at Clerkenwell, a testimonial, from which we take the following :—

> I have pleasure in certifying that Robert Wallace has been employed by this department of the Customs House Furniture Stores as a porter for about 18 years past. He is sober and intelligent and I consider that he would admirably fill the position of the Keeper of the Sessions House at Clerkenwell.

On May 4th, Wallace was dismissed by Mr. Robertson, the Assistant Superintendent at Somerset House, without a moment's notice—or, rather, we should say, that he was dismissed by Messrs. Mowlem and Co., for one of the many anomalies of the Civil Service is that porters at H.M. Office of Works, although under the control of the Department, and subject to its orders in every way, are engaged and paid by Messrs. Mowlem and Co. Why that should be we do not know, nor does it from the moral point of view affect the responsibility of the Department, for which Wallace had worked for 20 years. Wallace was not taken on by Mowlem and Co., but by Mr. Rowland Bailey, now Controller of H.M. Stationery Department, and then Controller of the Office of Works, Supplies Division.

When Wallace was informed that his services were no longer required, and that he was dismissed without notice, he naturally asked for an explanation. He was not conscious of having committed any fault, and if any charge had been lodged against him he claimed that it should be made known to him in order that he might have an opportunity of meeting it. He wrote to Mr. Hillier, the Controller of Supplies, to this effect, and this is what he got in reply. The letter is dated May 20th, 1909 :—

> In reply to your letter to-day I regret that it is impossible for me to reconsider the case of your services being utilised on work of this department. Although you were employed at the Office of Works for so long a period, I must remind you that Messrs. Mowlem and Co. were your employers, and in informing that firm of our having no further need for your services, cannot be construed as having been ignominiously dismissed, inasmuch as men on whom no shadow of suspicion rests are subjected to similar treatment.

This is really a very mean letter. In the first place, the employment by Mowlem and Co. was mere fiction, and if summary dismissal at the end of 20 years' service is not ignominious dismissal, we do not know what is. It will be noted that Mr. Hillier, who refuses to formulate any charge against Wallace, insinuates in this letter that he is under "suspicion."

The upshot of it is that Wallace, a man of irreproachable character, who has done nothing to warrant punishment, and who has been refused the opportunity of explaining any statement that some enemy may have made against him, is dismissed at the age of 46 years, and, with a wife and four children to look after, has to look about for other employment weighted by the fact of this dismissal. Messrs. Mowlem and Co. know nothing to his discredit and had no desire whatever to dismiss him, but they were instructed to do so by the Office of Works without reason given, and, consequently, they are precluded from giving him a character. The Office of Works dismiss him summarily and refuse him a character, whilst not venturing to bring against him any sort of charge of misconduct. It is, of course, from one point of view, a very small matter that a poor devil of a porter, passing rich on 29s. a week, should be kicked out of his livelihood, but we cannot think that Mr. Lewis Harcourt would approve of this treatment if only he knew the facts, and we ask him to look into them.

REFERRING to a paragraph in our issue of December 25th, in which we directed the attention of Messrs. MacFarlane and Co. to the allegation that they are in the habit of paying their employees at the rate of 13s. a week, Messrs. MacFarlane and Co. write to us to say that they pay no such wage for adult labour, and that in the case to which reference was made the payment was not 13s. a week, but 18s., running up, during the last few weeks, to a guinea. We are glad to hear it.

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

President—HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, ESQ., M.P.

Objects: To stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to create a robust and self-reliant Public Opinion; and to promote a Common Sense, Business Government for a Common Sense, Business People.

Readers desirous of joining the League must fill up the subjoined form and forward same to the Secretary, 67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

SOME BRANCH REPORTS.

ACOCKS GREEN.—Everything in connection with the League continues to be a source of public interest and enthusiasm, and JOHN BULL is, according to the statements of the newsagents, eagerly bought. There is every probability of the membership being at least trebled before the first month of the New Year is over.

GOVAN.—Here the popularity of the League is still on the increase, our President's oratorical powers having exercised a magnetic influence on everyone who had the privilege of listening to him. Badges are being constantly applied for and organisation will actively be carried on in the New Year. In the opinion of everyone, the seed of the League has not fallen on barren ground in this part of Bonnie Scotland.

LEEDS.—The League is still making great strides here, and membership is increasing daily. We are still looking forward to the President's visit, when he may be assured of an enthusiastic reception.

MAIDSTONE.—The League is making steady progress. Local members have their eye on the Corporation rate of wages paid to the tramway workers, who are paid at the rate of 15s. a week and work over 10 hours a day!

ROCHDALE.—In connection with the League a Whist Drive will be held in the Assembly Hall of the Provident Stores, on Tuesday, January 17th. Tickets including refreshments, 1s. each. The League Song will be sung in the interval. Members will be enrolled, and badges and hat-pins can be obtained from the Secretary.

SUTTON.—A promising branch has been established here, and over 200 members are already enrolled. Our local organ, *The Herald*, is giving us good publicity.

WALSALL.—The League here has its eye on the Rev. W. Riley—the South Hackney "Cuckoo Candidate" in the election of 1906, who had the temerity to oppose our President. This gentleman is now trying to force his political views down the throats of his congregation in the name of religion.

A Birmingham correspondent sends us the following verses :—

The League-men of JOHN BULL are legion,
Desirous of helping the cause;
When Bottomley came to this region,
Our thanks were well-known by applause.

That John Bull League teaches its lessons,
We Birminghamites clearly see—
How Cant, and the Kill-joy professions,
Would otherwise "masters" soon be!

FRANCIS KNIGHT.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

—:o:—

Please enrol me as a Member of the JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

THE MOST ACCEPTABLE NEW YEAR'S GIFT

A GOOD MEMORY

Mr. C. L. Pelman, the author of the famous Pelman System of Memory Training, makes a New Year Offer to a limited number of readers of "John Bull" who send the attached coupon within fourteen days. The offer consists of the complete course of personal correspondence instruction in the Pelman System *for half the usual fee*. Coupons should be forwarded to the Pelman School as early as possible.

Success and Money Come to the Man who can Remember.

Successful Business and Professional Men, Naval and Military Officers, Clergymen, Doctors, Lawyers, Students, Clerks, Mechanics, and other engaged in practically every employment testify to the immense benefit they have derived from the Pelman Memory Course, which has cured them of mind-wandering, and permanently increased their mental efficiency without recourse to any artificial or "mnemonical aids." Copies of testimonials are included in explanatory prospectus to be had post-free from the School.

Memory Means Money.

Whatever your position in life, whether you are "the head" conducting a great organisation, or whether you are a junior mounting the office stool for the first time, an improved memory means improved chances of success, a better position, greater power, bigger salary. No single cause has contributed more to the success of thousands of successful men and women in all parts of the world than

The Pelman System of Memory Training.

The Pelman System has been reviewed and recommended by the Editors of 500 leading English and foreign newspapers. It is taught in six languages, and Pelman Schools have been established in England, France, Germany, Australia, S. Africa, India, and America.

Cures Mind-Wandering.

The Course consists of five lessons occupying a few minutes' spare time for five weeks. Benefit commences with the first lesson, and when the final lesson is reached the power of the NATURAL MEMORY has become doubled. The pupil is not asked to do anything that he does not do now, but is *shown a better way of doing everything no matter what it is*. The exercises to be done are connected with everyday affairs—things that have to be remembered.

Send the Coupon To-day.

It is worth your while to investigate the claims made for this System. If you realise the keen stress of competition in the present day, what a poor chance of success remains to those who are not mentally fit, you will not hesitate to enrol for a Pelman Course when you have satisfied yourself of its genuineness.

COUPON.

To the SECRETARY,
Pelman School of Memory,
4, Bloomsbury Street,
London, W.C.

Please send Free Prospectus and particulars of Mr. Pelman's New Year offer to readers of JOHN BULL.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

SHAKESPEARE IN THE CITY.

By Arthur H. King.

The life-story of Shakespeare has given rise to many diverse theories, each of which has had its own particular vogue, for a time.

Some people believe that there never was such a man. Others that he was Lord Bacon. Others, again, that he was not one, but several persons. And there are some so simple as to believe that he was merely—Shakespeare.

As to the correctness or otherwise of any of these theories, it is not my purpose to dispute. Any one of them will equally well fit in with the discovery I have made, that Shakespeare—under whatever guise he passed in the world, player, peer, poet, or poacher—was really a business man, what is now euphemistically called "something in the City."

The proof of this I will give, with no uncertain sound, from his own mouth.

Who but a business man would give vent to the maxim :

"Have more than thou showest,
Speak less than thou knowest,
Lend less than thou owest" ?

And, again :

"Let every eye negotiate for itself,
And trust no Agent,"

shows clearly that not only was he a business man, but a shrewd one, too.

We find a reference to his early days in the City in the saying :

"Unquiet meals make ill-digestion,"

evidently an allusion to the time when he took a frugal lunch sitting at a marble-topped table, or munched a sandwich perched on a high stool at a crowded bar.

Again :

"The clock upbraids me with the waste of time."

No doubt he refers to hours filched from business for the purpose of playing dominoes in a cellar.

Shakespeare never forgot those early days in the City, and spoke of them in after years as—

". . . my salad days
When I was green in judgment."

That he was in the habit of "flying kites," and was evidently willing to pay a good bonus to any responsible party who would accept his drafts, may safely be inferred from the lines :

"I would to God thou and I knew where a commodity of good names were to be bought."

And that sometimes he had cause to regret his action is evidenced by the exhortation :

"Keep . . . thy pen from lenders' books, and defy the foul fiend,"

evidently spoken at a moment when he was at his wits' end to find the wherewithal to take up an acceptance falling due.

Anything that serves to throw light on Shakespeare's habits and methods in the City is interesting.

His cordial invitation to a friend :

"What say you to a piece of beef and mustard ?"

compares pleasantly with the habits of the City man of the day, who follows up an invitation to lunch by suggesting to his guest that they should toss to see who pays!

In spite of all my researches I have been unable to definitely ascertain exactly what Shakespeare's business was; but, after all, there are a good many gentlemen "something in the City" who would perhaps be somewhat hard put to it were they obliged to strictly define their occupation.

I think, however, there can be no doubt that at times he was a speculator, and that at times he dabbled in company promotion :

"Fortune is merry, and in this mood will give us anything,"

must have been uttered at a time when he had a big account open for the rise in American Rails, in a bull market—the sort of occasion when he could do nothing wrong.

On the other hand :

"Here are a few of the unpleasant'st words that ever blotted paper,"

was probably his comment on reading the news of the sailing of the Spanish Armada, what time he was a bull of Consols.

It is to be feared that, like many other men, as he prospered and waxed fat, Shakespeare became more and more grasping and avaricious in his business dealings

He admits it himself :

"Bell, book and candle shall not drive me back,
When gold and silver becks me to come on,"

and again :

"But in the way of bargain, mark ye me,
I'll cavil on the ninth part of a hair,"

and :

"Give me thy gold if thou hast any gold."

Like all Company Promotors he must have had much business with solicitors, and no doubt it was of a company lawyer that he said :

"In limited professions there's boundless theft."

In conclusion it will be interesting to give in Shakespeare's own words the history of one of the companies promoted and controlled by him, from its earliest inception to its final liquidation.

Unfortunately, owing to the incomplete state of the record at Somerset House, it is impossible to give the exact name of this company, or any details of its capitalization, but falling back upon conjecture, I would call it "The Forest of Arden Mining and Exploration Company," and as for figures, it is safe to assume that a promoter possessed of the magnificent imagination of Shakespeare did not err on the side of insufficient capitalization.

We can imagine then, Shakespeare, at the preliminary meeting of directors, before issuing their prospectus, addressing his colleagues as follows :

"Promising is the very air o' the time; it opens the eyes of expectation."

While we can hear him muttering to himself :

"O, what may man within him hide,
Though angel on the outward side ?"

That in the course of this business he had dealings with the financial press is evident from the following :

"There is gold for you;
Sell me your good report."

It is quite clear that the art and mystery of editorial puff was as fully understood in the days of good Queen Bess as at the present time.

Results not having quite come up to expectations, we find him reassuring his shareholders at the general meeting, and telling them they must not be in a hurry for dividends :

"To climb steep hills
Requires slow pace at first."

We pass on to the scene at the final meeting of directors, when the question is how is the disastrous news of total failure to be announced to the shareholders, and we find him addressing his colleagues :

"What should be spoken here where our fate,
Hid within an augur-hole, may rush and seize us ?"

And then, turning to the solicitor for advice :

"We single you as our best moving, fair solicitor,"

adding :

"In these nice sharp quillets of the law,
Good faith, I am no wiser than a daw."

It is to be feared that little help was to be obtained from their solicitor, who could merely advise :

"You keep o' the windy side of the law."

He tells us in his own words how, at the final meeting, the shareholders receive definite tidings of what they had already suspected, that their money is irretrievably lost :

"They spake not a word,
But, like dumb statues or breathing stones,
Gazed on each other, and looked deadly pale."

He tells them it is of no use to blame the directors :

"What fates impose, that men must needs abide;
It boots not to resist both wind and tide."

In those days, the Companies Acts were not the fearsome things they now are. Some shareholders gave way to despair :

"Oh! break my heart, poor bankrupt, break at once,"

and a few to abuse :

"There's neither honesty, manhood, nor good fellowship in thee."

Meanwhile, the directors, with Shakespeare at their head, discreetly retire through a side door.

"The rest is silence."

ELM COTTAGE.

To S.G.H.—My dear boy, I cannot believe you are void of all love and thought for me and the dear ones you have left. Do, do come or write; we will send you money if you will only communicate. Do not refuse my appeal; am broken hearted.—MOTHER.

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To New Year, Esq., Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

SIR,—I have just had the pleasure of addressing a rather delightful testimonial to your late lamented predecessor, 1909. Though the high opinion I formed of his efforts and achievements on the whole is not, I am well aware, uncontested by competent observers, you will be glad to hear that my words of appreciation soothed his dying hours and resigned him to his inevitable fate. It was a great, if cynical truth Voltaire spoke when he said that the moment in which we are born is a step towards death. You, who have come into the world with the joy bells a-ringing in your ears, may as well remember that twelve months from to-day you, as 1909, will have passed to your bourne. I don't tell you this to discourage you. Even if you crowd your hours with all good you can have but a short life, so you needn't go gadding about wasting time and opportunity like a reckless spendthrift who has come into the millions of his unknown, providential Australian uncle.

All I have to ask from you is that if you can't give us all good you won't give us all bad, but will mix the good and the bad together, with a bit overweight of the good. I am inclined to believe that it is wholesome and nutritious for us to have our life's luck "sort of fat and lean," like a slice of streaky bacon. In the way of trade and employment you have a great deal to make up, and as this affects the poor I shall be much obliged if you will take an early opportunity to give special attention to it; I don't mean in the way of statistics, for these we have with us alway, but in trade revived and increased employment visible and tangible to us all.

It would not have been necessary for me to mention this to you in the ordinary course, but as a matter of fact the astrologists cast your horoscope and the prophets prophesied concerning you several weeks ago. If they are correct you don't come with a very good character, and instead of pealing merry bells for you we ought to be kicking you. But though we have been warned in advance about you we are going to give you a fair chance to win respect and honour among us. If you don't take the chance—well, I shall make remarks about you in due course which won't look well when used as an epitaph. Meanwhile, I give you good health on trust, in a toast familiar to the old Romans, "If you are well all is well, for I am well." JOHN BULL.

To Sir Christopher Furness, Hartlepool.

MY DEAR CHRIS,—I note that as a result of the nine months' working of your co-partnership scheme there is a workers' profit of nine per cent. on their holding in addition to their wages. On this achievement I congratulate you both. It proves what can be done by labour and capital united in a common interest. Your scheme has engaged the labourer's heart as well as his brain and hands, and it is written that where the treasure is there the heart is also. I do not doubt that if other great firms were to imitate your example such industrial plagues as strikes and lockouts would be abolished from our land. Once the workers are assured that the interests of the employers are their own, industrial antagonisms tend to elimination, capital is conserved to better uses, labour ceases to run to waste in disastrous idleness, and the sum of the energies necessary to production are concentrated loyally, heartily, and confidently on the work in hand. There is hardly a business, small or great, which would not be the more prosperous for some such scheme as that of yours. Thanks for the object-lesson.

JOHN BULL.

To H. S. Pitt, Esq., Coalmaster, Ambleside.

SIR,—It is reported to me that at a Tory meeting, held at Ambleside, near Stourbridge, you and your brother coalmasters and fire-brick manufacturers offered, at your own expense, to send to Germany two Liberals and two Conservatives selected by the political parties in the division to study the conditions of living there under tariffs. If that offer is genuinely made, as I am willing to believe, and accepted, as I think it should be, four gentlemen have the opportunity of a pleasant sojourn in the Fatherland, during which they will be able to combine instruction with amusement, even if the Tariff Reformers don't become Free Traders or the Free Traders Tariff Reformers. There is nothing like studying fiscal questions on the spot, especially when you can do it free of all costs and charges. For heaven's sake, however, do ask your pilgrims not to bring back any more statistics, unless you require them to make confusion worse confounded, and contradiction more contradictory. Another idea. Send the men to the John Bull League meetings—or to South Hackney. I have solved the problem there.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, M.P., Minister of War,

DEAR HALDANE,—Thanks for your prompt attention to my note *re* the case of Mrs. Stone, wife of the Territorial gunner, who lost his life as a result of an accidental explosion while he was performing his regimental duties on Salisbury Plain. I suggested that you should at least send her some of the War Office washing, but you have done better than that, having moved the Treasury to grant her a pension. A happy and prosperous new year to you.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., Governor-General, South Africa.

MY DEAR HERBERT,—I am delighted to hear of your appointment as Governor-General of United South Africa. As you do not advertise, your excellent record as an administrator at the Home Office is not as widely known as that of some of your colleagues in other departments of State, but you have done splendid work, all the same. It has been not only thorough, but human. No doubt your limitations as a Parliamentary debater have had much to do with your success as an administrator, for alike by temperament and by choice you are out of your element in acute political contentions.

As Governor-General of South Africa you have now an opportunity of carving for yourself a great name in the rock of Empire. It is not in you to cohort through this far-off dominion of welded races as a proud and prancing pro-consul. Your mission will be to soothe and heal. You will recall that out of a bloody and a costly war has come a strange fraternal union between the conquering and the conquered, and you will understand that this union, fraught with great lessons for all the peoples of the world, is entrusted to your fostering care to the end that it may realise its destiny in good government, free institutions, prosperous citizenship, and loyal comradeship with the Motherland. It is a high mission. Let it fire your imagination and illumine your purpose, for the day will come when you will have to ask yourself, "Is it well?" Happy, indeed, will you be in your honours if you can then answer, "It is well." So go, and take my blessing with you.

JOHN BULL.

To The Crown Prince of Denmark, Copenhagen.

SIR,—Friends in Denmark tell me that you are chagrined because, misled by the too confiding scientists of Copenhagen, you allowed Munchausen Cook to make a fool of you during that long series of "triumphs" in your country which followed his alleged return from the North Pole. You have, however, the consolation that this frigid romancer also fooled almost everybody else in Denmark. Though all the world wondered and scoffed, you fêted him, and applauded him, and presented him with flowers and university degrees and public banquets. Never, Prince, was there such a national spectacle in the annals of simple faith. Now that your special commission have had an opportunity of examining the records which, with his tongue in his cheek, he told you "would prove his claims beyond the shadow of a doubt," and find that the records do not contain the slightest proof, naturally all Denmark is kicking itself, and would probably be kicking Cook as well, if he were there. None knoweth the place of his sojourning. Perhaps he is up the pole at last—and there let him stay.

JOHN BULL.

To Walter Harley, Esq., Ingall, Parson, Clive and Co., Ltd., Coffin Furniture Makers, Birmingham.

DOLEFUL SIR,—I have read with unmixed feelings of pleasure an account of your lamentations at a meeting of your company. You told the shareholders that the company had "passed through a remarkable year—the worst in the whole of the firm's forty years' experience—and did not possess a single redeeming feature." I venture to hope, sir, that in the new year the unprosperous nature of the business will increase tenfold, for I hold it to be a healthy state of things that people should not die in order that funeral furnishers may live. Never in my life have I taken such a sincere delight in the misfortunes of others, but in the circumstances I hope to be forgiven. May I ask whether you attribute the slump in coffins to Free Trade or the Budget, or the House of Lords—and will Tariff Reform help you? Fancy, coffins "going"!

JOHN BULL.

Editor, "Daily Mail," London.

As you seem anxious to know how to prevent German invasion, will tell you. Hang half-a-dozen London editors.

BULL.

Hon. W. Peel, M.P.

Made note your allegation Election being conducted in Inferno of Lies. Ever know an election which wasn't?

BULL.

"RING OUT THE OLD,
RING IN THE NEW"——

WITH THE BOOM OF THE JOHN BULL BELL.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

First and foremost I wish to all readers of JOHN BULL, and especially to those who honour me by reading the financial columns, a happy and prosperous New Year. May their balance at their Bankers increase largely in the course of 1910, and may my little hints be instrumental in contributing to this desirable development. I should like to point out again that I speak mainly to investors, who can take up the shares which they buy. I am not writing merely from the point of view of market conditions, but chiefly from that of intrinsic merit. These two influences are sometimes quite opposed to each other, but the market must finally give way to the merits of the stocks, and that is where the investor, who has not to worry about carrying over shares, has the pull over the mere speculator. The year ends under favourable conditions. Some of the Bears, who are notably option dealers, had to buy back South African Mining Shares, and an investment demand also arose on the splendid dividends announced, a list of which appeared in last week's issue. Hence, Kaffir Shares are all higher, and Rhodesians are following suit, while West Africans are buoyant, and precisely those shares which I have been recommending are much higher, and will go still better. Home Rails have further improved, so that most of these stand already above the prices quoted in last week's tables, but I anticipate a rise chiefly in the New Year, when Foreign Government and Railway Stocks should also go ahead. Amongst the latter, I may notably mention Argentine and Mexican Rails, and especially Mexican Southern Ordinary, now a rent charge on the Interoceanic of Mexico, to which I drew special attention on December 18th, and which have now hardened to 93½, with very active dealings. The Yankee and Rubber Markets are specially dealt with in the following articles. My readers are aware that I take a very favourable view of the business of the year 1910. It is true that January may be disturbed somewhat by the General Election, but I should not be at all surprised if we were to have a general boomlet before the Election, and whatever may be the issue of the same, I anticipate a general advance in the course of the year, values still being very moderate. Finally, I may explain that I have on purpose to-day cut my article short, in order to find room for some of the answers to correspondents, which have assumed such huge proportions that many columns are now awaiting space.

ANOTHER RUBBER BOOM.

The market for rubber and rubber shares is in so interesting a position that it requires a special paragraph, even in these holiday times. Ever since the news came from Manaos that there were fresh delays in pushing forward Amazon rubber down the river, the price for fine hard Para rubber has been advancing, and is now to 6d. above the recent lowest points at 7s. 7½d., while January February delivery is close up at 7s. 7d. Nor has Plantation rubber lagged behind, as Tuesday's auctions in Mincing Lane fetched an advance of from 4d. to 6d., so that fine Plantation is now from 7s. 9d. to 8s. 1d. The top prices, by the way, were realised by the Highlands and Lowlands Company at 8s. o¾d., and by the Shelford Company at 8s. o½d. It looks, therefore, as if a regular boom would develop in the New Year, and those who are anxious to take an interest in Plantation rubber shares will do well to make their investments at once. As frequently explained, it is important not to risk money in doubtful companies, and of these there are many among those recently promoted. Either the trees are very young on the plantations, and it will take years before dividends can be paid, or the land is unsuitable for rubber cultivation, or, finally, many are over-capitalised. Under these circumstances, it is safest and most profitable to buy the high-class shares in companies which are well-established, and are already producing rubber on a good scale, thus having arrived at the dividend-paying stage. Amongst these may be mentioned the following, which, by the way, have been remarkably firm throughout the recent reaction:—Inch Kenneth £1 shares at 6⅞, Selangor 2s. shares at 37s.; Highlands and Lowlands £1 shares at 3 3-16; Linggi ordinary 2s. shares at 24s. 3d. x.d.; Sumatra Para 2s. shares at 6s.; and finally, Jequié rubber 2s. shares, fully paid, which have now improved to 5s. 3d. The enormous extent of the Company's rubber forests of 80,000 acres marks its importance. The result of clearing some 32,236 acres is reported to have been of a most satisfactory nature, as they averaged about 2,300 trees to the acre. It is intended to clear the undergrowth from at least 2,000 acres next year when the tapping season is over. In addition there are 540 acres planted with rubber trees, ranging from three to five years old. As the Company's capital is very moderate, £21,000, there appear to be good prospects of large profits.

AMERICAN PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW YEAR—WALL STREET WIRE-PULLERS—THE DIVIDEND OUTLOOK.

Ever since American Rails reached high-water mark some time ago, I warned my readers to leave this market alone. At the same time, I did my best to dissuade them from entering into "bear" operations, in view of the fact that the "bull" sentiment was in the ascendant in Wall Street, and my views have been amply borne out by the course of events. I do not believe in running one's head against a brick wall, regardless of consequences. The big pools in Wall Street, controlling as they do the bulk of the stocks, have the game in their own hands, and if it suits their books to put up the market, all the talk about intrinsic merit is not of the slightest avail. At present, the wirepullers are committed to an upward movement for sufficiently good reasons. What alone can upset the apple-cart for the time being is the possibility of a temporary money flurry during the last few days of 1909, but directly the year is turned, the huge January interest and dividend disbursements will make their effects felt in the direction of considerable monetary ease, while these funds will also largely find their way back into the market for reinvestment. The "bear" operators have of late endeavoured to make considerable capital out of possible Government action against the Trusts, but, so far, there has been nothing in the proceedings in Congress to disturb Wall Street, and at present, at any rate, there is no indication of anything of the sort taking place. The business outlook for 1910 is remarkably favourable, and a trade boom is looked for, especially in the Steel industry—factors which it may be taken for granted will be worked for all they are worth by the "bull" leaders. With the reservation mentioned, and barring occasional profit-snatching reactions, I look for a resumption of the upward movement in Americans in January, and those people who like to have an occasional flutter in these volatile stocks will find the following comparative table of quotations and yields very useful:—

DIVIDEND-PAYING YANKEE STOCKS.

Name.	Dividend p.c.	Present Buying Price.	Highest, 1909.	Lowest, 1909.	Yield per cent. £ s. d.
Atchison	6	125⅝	129½	100⅝	4 15 6
Baltimore and Ohio	6	121½	124½	106	4 19 0
Chesapeake and Ohio	4	80½	92⅝	57⅝	4 9 6
Chic. and Milwaukee	7	162	169½	143⅛	4 6 0
Denver Pref.	5	90	92⅝	81	5 11 0
Illinois Central	7	152½	165⅛	140⅝	4 12 9
Louisville	6	161	165½	124	3 14 6
Missouri Pref.	4	76	80½	74	5 5 3
New York, Central	8	129	152⅝	123⅝	5 17 6
New York, Ontario	2	50⅝	57	43⅜	3 18 9
Norfolk and Western	6*	102⅜	104½	87⅛	5 17 9
Reading 1st	6	87⅝	88⅝	60⅝	3 8 3
Southern Pacific	6*	136⅛	142⅜	117	5 2 6
Union Pacific	10	208⅛	226	175⅜	4 16 0
U.S. Steel Common	4	94⅜	96½	42⅜	4 4 9
Do. Pref.	7	129	134⅜	109⅜	5 8 6

* Estimated for 1910

Dividend prospects are encouraging. The hopes of an immediate increase in the *Reading* distribution have been fulfilled the dividend being now on a six per cent. basis, and the *Lehigh Valley* distribution has been raised to a similar level. Dividend increases are also anticipated in the case of *Union Pacifics, Southern Pacifics, New York Centrals, Steel Corporation*, etc., in the course of 1910, while the re-grouping of the *Gould* and *Rock Island* Roads should have a beneficial effect upon these stocks. Then there is the important section of Southern Roads, notably the *Louisville* and the *Southern Railway*, and the view has gained ground that *Southern Preferred* are booked for a resumption of dividend payments in the near future. It had also been hoped that the *Norfolk and Western* would raise its distribution, but the market is now less sanguine on this point, although, as it is the unexpected which so often happens in the American markets, it is not unlikely that the Directors will find it expedient to, after all, resort to an increase of dividend in order to facilitate the marketing of the new stock issue. In fact, the New York banking groups are generally committed to the "bull" side of the market, if only because of the large lines of new bonds and stocks which they have underwritten, and which, we may be sure, they do not intend to keep for themselves, but to pass on to the public on both sides of the water. Such operations can only be carried out in a strong market. I do not, however, by any means recommend indiscriminate "bull" operations, but rather only moderate purchases on distinct reactions, such as are likely to occur until, for instance, the labour question with the Railroads and the Steel Corporation is finally settled. That the latter will result in any serious trouble, I do not for a moment believe.

"EQUITABLE EXCHANGE," AND "CURRIE, MILLS AND Co."

We shall be glad to hear from any of our readers who have had transactions with either of the above-named firms.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

Financial and Insurance Enquiries.—Owing to the ever-increasing demands upon our space for replies to Financial and Insurance Enquiries, we have been compelled to make a rule that in future a postal order for 1/- must accompany each enquiry—which must reach us not later than first post Friday morning in order to be dealt with in the following issue of our journal.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

HENDERSONS ESTATES, ETC.—ELECTRA.—(1) Hold for an improvement. (2) Hardly. (3) Not much. J. S. D.—You had better average, as you bought so high up. There are fair possibilities in 2. As regards 1, there is a kind of craze on, and the question is, will it last? (3) Possibly. (4) Poor prospects.

CONTINENTAL LOTTERIES.—W. F.—The lottery is genuine, but I know nothing about the intermediary. CONDUCTOR.—Same reply. NERO.—How can I tell you whether a small agent in Budapest is respectable? M. B. R. C.—(1) These lotteries are genuine enough, but most of the intermediaries are shady, and I cannot help you in the matter. (2) The advertisement of these outside brokers has been discontinued. (3) No.

YAN AND AXIM.—DR. D.—Your remarks are certainly justified, but you will have to get other shareholders to band with you before you can make your voice effectively heard in the matter.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.—WILFRED STANLEY.—The fact that the concern does not even appear in the usual books of reference should deter you from buying its shares.

LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER.—J. S. (Monagham).—Of course, I cannot guarantee that there will be no further fall, but it looks to me as if the shares will move upwards in future, and you should hold for an improvement.

SILVER BIRD COBALT.—SILVER MINE.—No information whatever is available here.

VARIOUS SHARES.—GRANITE CITY.—I do not like any of the shares mentioned, and the outlook for dividends is by no means encouraging.

ARGENTINE TRANSANDINE PREFS.—G. G. (Stroud Green).—Very speculative, but not unpromising. No dividend is being paid on them at present.

VARIOUS MINES.—CORNHILL.—(1) No recent information. (2) Yes. (3) Better sell.

OROVILLE, SAN FRANCISCO ORO.—SCOTTIE (Glasgow).—Sell both shares, and re-invest in Kaffirs.

£300 FOR INVESTMENT.—G. L. (Enfield Lock).—A gilt-edged security would be preferable—for instance, London County 3½ per cent. stock at slightly under 100 x.d.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.—S. P. CANAL.—The Ordinary shares are not quoted, but as the £10 Preference shares stand at only 1⅛, it is evident that the value of the Ordinary cannot be far from nil.

BRITISH OIL CAKES.—EASTER.—The Directors of the British Oil Cake have foreshadowed improved results for the present. Hold the engineering shares, but do not average yet.

LONDON PURE MILK.—L. T.—I am afraid you will not be able to get rid of these shares in a hurry, as there is no market for them.

WATER COMPANY.—HARGRAVE.—I do not advise any further investment in the first-mentioned concern. No information available about the latter.

CRESCENS ROBINSON.—SOCCER.—There is no market price for the shares, and no dividend was paid for 1907.

HORSESHOE NAIL.—HORSESHOE.—(1) Still in existence, but doing very badly. (2) No longer in existence.

MOSS EMPIRES.—J. F. R. (Edinburgh).—Highly speculative. Preference shares are obviously preferable to Ordinary, from the point of view of safety. WELSHMAN.—I presume the fall is due to increased competition. I will make inquiries, and let you know further.

CANADIAN PACIFIC.—TIVERTON.—You cannot do much better in this class than buy Canadian Pacifics, especially on a reaction. The stock is of the face value of 100 dols.

£2,000 FOR PERMANENT INVESTMENT.—TRUSTEE (Salina Cruz).—The following would be a suitable selection of trustee stocks:—London County 3½ per cent., at 100 xd; Transvaal 3 per cent Guaranteed, at 95½; Cape of Good Hope Consolidated 3½ per cent. Inscribed, at 98 xd; Western Australian 3½ per cent. Inscribed, at 97; New South Wales 3½ per cent. Inscribed, at 97⅛ xd.

SIX INVESTMENT STOCKS.—CAREW.—The six stocks in question are suitable for the investment of the £1,200 in question. You must understand, however, that none of them are what is known as "gilt-edged." For securities of the latter class, see previous reply to "Trustee."

SWIFTS, CONSOLIDATED MINES.—NOVICE (Hereford).—Hold Consolidated Mines Selection, and sell the cycle shares, reinvesting the proceeds, say, in Simmer Deep.

A BIG LIST.—AUTOLYCUS.—You are carrying out the principle of spreading investments with a vengeance. (1) The list Nos. 1 to 17 is a fair selection in their respective sections, but it will be rather difficult to buy such small amounts of the Bank shares. (2) You might sell Nos. 2, 3 and 4. (3) A few Kaffirs. (4) Not favourable.

£200 FOR INVESTMENT.—F. S. P. (Leeds).—You cannot get 5 per cent. with absolute safety, but Japanese or Argentine Government Bonds would about meet your requirements.

NATIONAL FREE HOMES.—X.X.—Why not make your enquiries where more would be known about this concern? Nothing is known here.

GAIKA, SELUKWE.—GAIKA.—Both highly speculative. I should prefer Kaffirs.

FIVE HOLDINGS.—NOVICE (Bristol).—(1 and 2) Textile trade conditions are not encouraging at present, and you had better take an opportunity to sell. (3) A fair holding. (4) No quotation here. (5) Ditto. (6) Daggafontein, West Rand Consols, Randfontein, New British Transvaal Mines. (7) Both more than doubtful.

PURCHASE OF BOND.—UNDERWRITER (Bristol).—The company is in a sound position, but could not advise you as to what you should offer for the Bond.

SMALLER BANKS.—A. P. (Swansea).—You must be a new reader, or you would know that I do not recommend deposits with institutions offering such high rates of interest. SOUTHALL.—Either bank, but only for small amounts. Personally, I do not recommend investment in Premium Bonds, but their fascinations appeal. C. D. C. (Belfast), T. H. W. (Bristol), C. G. M. (Nottingham).—Only for small sums.

LANCEFIELD GOLD MINE.—FERRO.—A fair mining risk, but instead of buying as many as 500 of these shares, put some of the money into the promising Kaffirs often mentioned in my article.

BANKS.—ENQUIRER (Newport).—If you mean the Metropolitan Bank (of England and Wales), this institution is all right for your purpose. E. W. S., DEPOSIT, CHAM, E. F. (Covent Garden), GUNNER D., COAL, CROWN REEF, W. H. W.—For small amounts. A. L. H.—If you want to open an account with one of the large London Joint Stock Banks, you would have to keep a balance of at least £50 and give satisfactory references. In that case, they would allow you their usual deposit rates, which are just now 3 per cent., and change with the Bank Rate. (b) As regards these rinks and electric theatres, there is at present a craze, but they are obviously highly speculative, and you must not go out of your depth.

SIX FIRST-CLASS BONDS.—RUPEE.—(1) West Australian 3½ per cent., Japanese 4½ per cent., Argentine 1886-7 Loan, Brazilian 5 per cent. Funding Bonds, Chilian 4½ per cent. 1886 Loan. (2) I do not object to the method, but to dealing with the firm in question.

GOLD REEFS EXPLORATION, ETC.—ROBIN.—(1) Sell on any improvement. (2) Ditto. (3) Yes; also see my articles on promising Kaffirs.

AUSTRALIAN SMELTING CORPORATION.—DUNDRUM.—(1) Still in existence, but dividends far off yet. (2) Apparently not.

CHATHAM FIRST PREFERENCE.—PETER SIMPLE.—The present quotation is £67½ per £100 per stock, but by holding a little longer you might get a better price. Any member of the Stock Exchange could sell the stock for you.

BRITISH COLONIAL PETROLEUM.—VINDEX.—It might be advisable to hold for an improvement now.

SMALL BUILDING SOCIETY.—J. S. D.—What you must take into consideration, also, is whether you will have any trouble in turning your shares into cash when you want to. For my part, I should prefer gilt-edged securities, such as London County 3½ per cent., or West Australian 3½ per cent. Inscribed Bonds. NEW READER.—I believe genuine, but I should prefer investment in sound securities, which you can always realise with much greater freedom.

FANTIS AND MALAYS.—RAGOT.—Good purchases, especially on reactions, but, of course, speculative.

MURCHISON ASSOCIATED.—OPHIR (Brighton).—Do you mean the Murchison Associated? I do not think much of the concern, but I am afraid you cannot avoid payment of the call.

SPENCER SANTO, CORONA QUEEN.—F. T. W.—I do not advise a further purchase of either. Rather sell, if you can.

BRITISH COLUMBIA CANNING, WEST LONDON DAIRY.—THE LEAGUE.—(1) No market. (2) Nominally ¼. Sell both, if you can.

EAST AFRICAN RUBBER.—T. C. L.—I should sell and cut the loss.

BRISEIS, ETC.—BRISEIS.—(1) Sell. (2) Hold, but do not average until matters mend with both concerns.

TANGANYIKAS.—TANKER.—Average on a distinct reaction, but you must be prepared for sharp fluctuations in such highly volatile shares.

SKAGIT.—EBOR.—Nothing is known here of either concern, and I should be sorry to advise investment.

RUBBER TANNED LEATHER.—CLYDESIDE.—Sell if you can, and reinvest in West Africans. You might, however, find the former a somewhat difficult task, as there is no regular quotation for the shares.

CHEAP WEST AFRICAN.—WARWICK.—Put this small sum into Prestea Mines. I send what you require in your envelope.

WHIMWELL COPPER.—COPPERITE.—Very speculative, but not without promise.

PUBLICATION.—AMATEUR CASHIER.—Apply to Effingham Wilsons, Royal Exchange, E.C., who publish such books.

FIXED DEPOSITS.—YEHODI.—The banks mentioned are all right, but I do not care for the system of fixed yearly deposits, as so much can happen in that time. It is far better to invest in sound securities. I do not like the newspaper shares in question.

PORT ALEGRE BOND, ETC.—LEYTON.—(1) A fair holding, but not gilt-edged. (2) Ditto. (3) Ditto. (4) Rather more speculative. (5) Subject to the usual fluctuations of Continental securities. (6) Speculative, but not unpromising.

JOHNNIES DIVIDEND.—R. L. (Haslemere).—The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment dividend of 2s. per share was deducted on October 28th.

MIDLAND DEFERRED.—A. N. (Kensington).—Midland Deferred have fallen along with other Home Rails. Hold you stock. There should be a good prospect of a substantial improvement in the New Year.

CORPORATION STOCK.—BARBARA.—The stocks of the Birmingham Corporation are quite safe, and, in view of the circumstances of the case, I send you the address of a stockbroker, who will advise you how to make the investment.

BROWETT LINDLEYS.—H. C. J. (High Wycombe).—No quotation in London. You will have to make your enquiries in Manchester.

LIPTONS, ETC.—GARO.—(1) Do not load yourself up too much with such Industrials. (2) Sell. (3) I believe respectable, but impossible to advise regarding such small concerns. (4) No. (5) For a small amount. (6) I do not think so Also see reply to "Investor" above. J. S. K.—There has since been an improvement, and I see no particular reason for selling in a hurry.

KAFFIR INVESTMENT FOR £400.—UBIQUE.—All four Kaffirs mentioned are all right.

BORNEO EXPLORATION.—J. W. H.—You might sell, and re-invest in a dividend-paying rubber concern.

SAN CARLOS, COLOMBIAN NATIONAL.—A. E. B.—I do not advise investment in either.

MASON AND BARRY.—SOMERSET.—Take an opportunity to sell.

WORKINGTON IRON.—R. P.—This is a combination of various concerns in Cumberland. The industry is in a very depressed condition, and everything must depend upon whether any revival will take place in the near future.

£200 TO INVEST.—A. B. C.—You can obtain, for instance, about 3½ per cent. on London County 3½ per cent. stock or West Australian 3½ per cent. bonds, with every safety.

SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENTS.—S. A.—(1) Daggafontein, Bantjes, Cloverfield; highest this year, 33s., 4⅛, 2 7-16 respectively. (2) Van Ryn, Nourse Mines, Knights; highest this year, 5 9-32, 4, 4½ respectively. Lives: Van Ryn, 14 years; Nourse Mines, 25 years, Knights, 10 years.

WIGHAM MINING.—WIGHAM.—Apparently a very doubtful concern, but why do you go into such shares first and ask advice afterwards? You should reverse this process in future.

FOUR SOUTH AFRICANS.—WM. A. (Woolwich).—All four shares are suitable for a lockup. I cannot advise as regards the standing of stockbrokers.

GERSON, HAMSON AND COMPANY.—OPTION, A. B. C. (Edinburgh), A. D., H. J. (Edinburgh).—I cannot add anything to the statement which has already appeared here concerning this firm. V. W. (Leicester).—I cannot help you in the matter. You will have seen the paragraph in the issue of November 27th. G. P. (Bristol), L. G. B. (Bath), STEELS.—I have nothing to add to the paragraph which has already appeared here. SUBSCRIBER (Co. Carlow).—I can only refer you to the special paragraph on this firm which appeared in a recent issue of JOHN BULL. Their advertisement was dropped directly such complaints came to hand. SHERWOOD, H. A. S. (Sheffield).—I can only repeat that as soon as it was known that these people were not meeting all their engagements the advertisement in JOHN BULL was dropped. I do not see how I can help you in the matter. COCKNEY.—(1) As regards Gerson, Hamson, see preceding reply. (2) No. M. S. (Chatham).—As soon as it came to my knowledge that these people were not meeting their engagements the advertisement was dropped. A special paragraph appeared upon the subject in JOHN BULL on the 18th ult., and I have nothing to add thereto. The documents are returned. AGAR (Berwick).—There is no doubt that these people owe you the money, but whether they will be able to pay is another question. The advertisement in JOHN BULL was stopped some time ago, owing to complaints of their not settling promptly. F. H. M., NOTRED.—I have nothing to add to what has already appeared here upon this subject.

SMALL INVESTMENT.—S. S. (Portsmouth).—Under the circumstances you had better put the money into the P.O. Savings Bank.

(We regret that we are again compelled to hold over a very large number of replies.)

THE HURLY BURLY.

By THEODORE DAHLE.

LIFE, JUDGE WILLIS, AND THE WEATHER.

I am indebted to a correspondent for sending to me a newspaper cutting reporting some remarks which Judge Willis was recently pleased to make about the weather. Defendant, a tradesman, appears to have blamed the "awful weather" for his inability to pay a creditor his just dues. "There is no such thing as awful weather," the Judge is stated to have retorted; "it is beautiful weather. Be cheerful, and the weather will be enjoyable." In many respects the Judge is a charming old lady, and though he is apt to revile where other people bless, I notice with satisfaction that he also rejoices where so many other people grumble. He seems to have been sent on this earth to reconcile a perverse and stiff-necked generation to the unfathomable decrees of Providence.

Yet Judge Willis's homily on cheerfulness in its relation to weather is not without philosophical truth. The worst possible weather would not be nearly so bad for so many of us if we made the best of it. You cannot get out of a thing what has not been put into it. I know, and you know, people who go about putting only grunts into life, and expect to get fun out of it, or nothing but loss into it, and expect to get out of it the maximum of profit. They never seem to see the sunny side. Sometimes I think they do not even want to see it. With them it is always bad weather, or, at least, always the wrong weather; always thunder and lightning, or rain or frost or snow or slush. The elements are in eternal conspiracy against them. Even the stars in their courses are against them as against Sisera. They are always miserable because the only way they can enjoy themselves is to be unhappy.

Superficially, it may appear that those who enjoy life the most are those who can afford to enjoy it, as we say. But that is not invariably so or necessarily so. It is possible to enjoy the play as well from the gallery as the stalls, and just so the man who carries his sun about with him manages to find a great deal of pleasure at very little cost. If the weather is foul he does not allow it to get on his liver or his nerves, for he knows that sooner or later it must be fair. In the darkest day he is never without hope, for he is never wholly without light. Every grumbler and growler he meets on the street may tell him that the weather is awful, but while he keeps his sun shining about him all he will know about the weather is that it is never so bad that it could not be a lot worse.

In large measure a man's weather is pretty much what he makes it. I do not say wholly, because the arrangements of our complex humanity are such that the fellow who makes bad weather for himself often makes it for you and me also, and sees that we get it. I have read somewhere that the liver is the life. This may be more a pill advertisement than a physiological exactitude; but, verily, do I believe that even the most inveterate grumbler and growler among us would more cheerily face all the weather life brought him if his liver adequately performed for him its proper function of secreting bile. It has long been one of my theories of the evolution of the later species that when the Lord took one of man's ribs and thereof made a lady He gave him a liver in exchange, and that in this way the liver became a heirloom in the human family. But also do I believe it was intended that he should utilise that heirloom for wholly beneficent purposes and not for the extinction of his earthly happiness.

His Honour Judge Willis notwithstanding, no man can be cheerful and bilious at the same time; he cannot smile at the whirlwind and laugh at the storm with his biliary system awry. If Robespierre and Marat had known the late Mr. Beecham, the French Revolution would have stopped short of the Reign of Terror. And so I say that if the grumblers and the growlers and the grunters whom one meets day after day through all the rolling year, would approach the weather in its various phases with their livers adequately corrected, they would not be long in realising that Judge Willis is not far out in saying that to the cheerful the most awful weather is enjoyable. But that as they please. Welcome or wince, enjoy or suffer, the weather of life has to be faced by all of us as it is made for us or by us, and we had better face it smiling than frowning, and with serenity rather than with discontent.

YOUNG MOORE'S MONTHLY PROPHECY.

JANUARY.

This month promises to be highly eventful. Owing to the fact that the constellations Camelopardus, Lynx, Gemini, Monoceros, and Canis Major will, during the early part of the month, be on the meridian at midnight, a virulent epidemic of political speechifying may be expected to over-run the country, culminating in a General Election of unexampled severity.

January 1st will be of exceptional interest. The malign influence of the Dog Star will necessitate the renewal of dog licences on that day, as well as the payment of the King's tax; and Mercury rising at 9.18 a.m. will result in the Parliamentary and Local Government Registers of Electors coming into force. As a set-off against these disasters, owing to the apparent right ascension of Venus at noon on the 1st being 21 hrs. 41 mins. 59 secs., both the Stock Exchange and the Scotch banks will take a holiday.

On the 5th the mean time of the sun's semi-diameter passing the meridian will be 1 min. 10.7 secs., in consequence whereof dividends on Consols will become due, and spread much satisfaction throughout the land. This, however, will be turned to consternation and anxiety in some quarters on the 9th, when, owing to the moon setting at 1.59 in the morning, the Christmas Fire Insurance premiums must be paid without further delay.

The weather during the month may be expected to exhibit the charming variety for which the English climate is famous. Mr. Balfour will give a fresh interpretation of Tariff Reform, Mr. Ure will go on telling 'em, and the membership of the John Bull League will increase at such a pace that the Killjoys, cranks, humbugs, and canters, as well as the Little Englanders, Socialists and Germano-maniacs, will be filled with alarm.

The sun throughout the month may confidently be expected to rise in the east and set in the west.

WITH reference to the paragraph in "World, Flesh and Devil" in our issue of December 11th, in which we directed attention to the action of the Military Authorities in ejecting Annie Stanley, the wife of a Private in the 21st Lancers, from the Barracks at Canterbury, on the plea that she was suffering from drink, we have received a letter from the Rev. E. H. Sheppard, Roman Catholic Chaplain, in which he defends the action of the Authorities, and says that "it was on the lips of all the women in married quarters that she was suffering from D.T.'s." We should have thought that an Army Chaplain would have been slow to accept the tittle-tattle of "women in barracks," and that the sworn statement of the poor woman's husband that she was not a drunkard would have had greater weight with a Roman Catholic Chaplain than it seems to have done. By the way, is it a fact that Stanley's wife had left the Roman Catholic for the Protestant Church?

BRITISH COALITE.

On December 21st, Sir W. H. Preece, K.C.B., F.R.S. (the chairman), presided at the ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the British Coalite Company, held at Salisbury House, London Wall.

The Chairman, after mentioning that £62,500 had been received from Coalite, Ltd., since the closing of the books, making a total of £72,500 so received during 1909—(loud cheers)—said that the directors were satisfied that the amount outstanding in respect of calls would be liquidated very shortly. In regard to the expenditure upon the buildings, machinery and plant at the works, the Company was naturally under a great disadvantage owing to the absolute novelty of the process, but he was glad to say he was confident that the alterations and improvements which had been carried out would be amply repaid by the results. A loss had been made on the sales during the experimental and constructional period, but the expenditure necessary for this work was usually made out of a reserve account, earmarked for the purpose. Again, owing to the distilleries not being in full working order, credit had not been taken for the real value of the tar, and until arrangements were finally completed for the utilisation of the gas it was, of course, impossible to take credit for the full benefit which would be derived from this by-product. £155,000 had been expended upon buildings and machinery, which had already commenced to earn a living. (Hear, hear.) Other assets in land and patent rights more than covered commitments. There was plenty of cash in hand to complete the Company's programme, and especially to carry out the works in hand at Barking, which would supply Coalite direct to the metropolitan area. (Applause.) £171,000 was still due in respect of calls, but not one penny had been borrowed. (Hear, hear.) In view of the fact that it was a new industry, based on novel scientific principles requiring considerable experiment, he thought the shareholders had every reason to be satisfied with the progress made. (Hear, hear.)

The report and accounts were adopted unanimously.

HUMAN DOCUMENT—LXXII.

A DESERTED AND PLUCKY MOTHER. WHO WILL HELP TO GIVE HER A START?

We have received the following appeal which we insert, after having satisfied ourselves of the correctness of its statements :—

I am in receipt of your note, and much appreciate the sympathy expressed therein. I am advised to again write to you, as perhaps I did not fully explain my circumstances in my last. I may say that what I ask is very little, merely a little assistance in getting the first stock for a very tiny business, just a few fents and oddments to be worked up by myself for sale. I will more fully detail my circumstances, but do not wish my name and address published, as so far I have brought up my children respectably without any help, but now I am not able to work as I have done. My husband, who was an officer of H.M. Inland Revenue, deserted me three years ago and threw up his post in the service, going away presumably to the States. When he went away I had a baby ten days old, and five other children dependent on me, four of them just recovering from diphtheria. As soon as I was able, I removed to a small house, and set about getting my living as best I could. But to make matters worse, my husband had sold off most of our furniture, which was my own property, and replaced it with new. As soon as we were settled in our new house, this new furniture was seized and sold, as he had, unknown to me, bought it on the hire system, and had not kept up the payments. My father, who was a clergyman, had a large family, and gave us all a good education; I could teach music, but have no piano, mine having been sold by my husband while I was laid up with my new baby. The only thing I could do was needlework, and as I had not been trained, was not competent to make dresses, etc., as a proper dressmaker. I obtained work at a large factory, and have been making dressing gowns and jackets at prices from 3s. to 7s. 6d. per dozen, finding my own cotton. My eldest son meanwhile got a junior clerkship, as I told you in my last letter, and is now getting 9s. a week, and of course supporting himself. My health, however, through close attention to work and want of things to which I have been accustomed, has failed, and I am unable to do the work I have been doing to the same amount as formerly. I suffer from dropsy, and the swelling in my legs and feet prevents me from using the machine as I have done. I have still five children—two boys, 12 and 10, and three girls, 8, 6, and 3 years old—to keep, and am advised to try and get a start in a little business. As I am penniless save for what I can earn from week to week, it is quite impossible for me to get the small stock I require to start it. Surely amongst all your charitable readers there are some who would help me by sending me a few bundles of fents or a few pounds of wool for this purpose? I neither ask for nor wish anyone to send me money; but surely a little help to keep my children off the parish and to help us to help ourselves is as worthy an object as it is to help able-bodied men to find situations.

It seems to us a case that may well appeal to the sympathy of our readers, and we hope it may seem so to them, so that by their aid this much-tried woman may begin the New Year cheered and encouraged by a gleam of hope.

With reference to Human Document No. 70, we have received the following monies, which have been forwarded to the writer, as requested:—A.E.S., 2s. 6d.; C. S., 2s.; J.W., 2s. 6d.; W.J.B. (Inverness), 1s.

"A HARD CASE."—We have received on behalf of this case the following monies, which have been forwarded:—C.A.B., 3s.; C.F.L., 1s.; "Admirer," 2s.

AN OLD AGE PENSION IN JEOPARDY.

A Sussex reader calls our attention to the position of George Hillman, a most hard-working old man, who will be 69 years of age next March. For some weeks Hillman has been unable to obtain employment. He is living with his daugher and her husband at Bates Green, Cane Heath, Berwick, Sussex, but they can no longer afford to maintain him, the son-in-law earning only 17s. 6d. a week. As there is nothing to invalidate him for an old age pension in March, 1911, he is naturally most anxious not to accept relief from the guardians. If he can only get sufficient help to tide him over till the spring, he may manage to struggle through. He is a very sober, industrious man, but, of course, at his age he is not fit for any hard work. A little help now would mean much, and we shall be happy to forward any remittances our readers may send for his benefit.

Will any Lady or Gentleman who witnessed the detention of a Lady by one of the officials at Harrod's Stores on the afternoon of Thursday, December 2nd, 1909, kindly communicate with Mr. J. MOVERLEY SHARP, Solicitor, Criterion Chambers, Jermyn Street, S.W.

To Stock Exchange Operators and Investors.

Deal direct with us. We have been transacting business for many of the best outside firms.

We shall be pleased to give you any references you may require.

We have been established 10 years and we undo our business whenever practicable with brokers.

Give us a trial and we are certain that the results will be satisfactory to you, and you will send your business to us only.

We do not offer to show you a short cut to fortune, and we seldom recommend.

We transact our business in a perfectly straightforward manner.

We cater for genuine business.

BARRY HUTTON AND COMPANY,

Gt. Western Chambers, Livery Street,

BIRMINGHAM.

Telegraphic Address "Concise."

N.B.—Our terms of business are as usual for Limited Loss or Fortnightly Account.

We also specialise in Options.

YARDLEY'S SHAVING SOAP

SAVES TIME—Because its flat creamy lather does not dry.

Discomfort—because it leaves the skin soothed and comforted.

Money—because it is so economical in use.

It is all British and the BEST on the market. 1/- post free, or from your chemist.

Free Sample sent on receipt of 1d. stamp for postage—

YARDLEY & Co., Ltd.,

Stratford, London, E., Dept. "A."

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. CLEMENT SCOTT.

"THE KNIFE."

After such a perfect deluge of interviews, paragraphs, and general commenting as to the whys, the wherefores, and goodness alone knows whatnots, explaining the reason that one of London's leading playwrights had consented to write for the once obnoxious music halls, it was only natural to expect that Henry Arthur Jones would introduce the public to something quite out of the ordinary in the sketch-making shape at the Palace Theatre of Varietes, and "first nighters" were all on the *qui vive* of excitement as to what H. A. J. was going to show managers by way of his startling innovation.

Judge, then, of the disappointment when the wind-bag of promise burst, and how fast-beating pulses fell to below normal, when it was discovered that nothing but a well-worn, morbid, unpretty story, not thrilling enough to be classed with the Grand Guignol plays, and wholly unsatisfactory as regards the ending—for the audience is left in a complete fog as to whether the wife becomes reconciled to her husband, the husband "effaces" himself, or the "parties," that is to say, Lady Ridgway and the "co-respondent," continue their life of gilded infamy.

Mr. Henry Arthur Jones places his characters in the jolly, cheery apartment of a West-End Nursing Home, and everybody is immensely exhilarated, particularly at this festive season of the year, by the appearance of the nurses, one of whom is engaged in preparing antiseptic bandages and medical necessities for a surgical operation which is about to be performed in the "theatre" which adjoins the room.

It's awful fun, I can tell you, and about as depressing as a lemon squash on a freezing day in January, and what in the name of everything that is wonderful Mr. Archie Kingsford is suffering from, nobody but Mr. Jones knows, but "The Knife" has to carve him somewhere, and within twenty-four hours, too, or he is a doomed man.

But this trivial fact doesn't prevent the invalid from getting up early and going out to send a wire to Lady Ridgway, the beautiful woman he is carrying on with, and wife of Sir Mark Ridgway, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, the eminent gentleman who is to "cut" Archie dead, or otherwise.

The arrival of Lady Ridgway at the nursing home, and the scene she has with her husband when he learns of her perfidy, are enough to make anyone tremble with fear, for the patient's life is at the mercy of a hand that is quivering like an aspen leaf, and it would be a sheer impossibility for any surgeon to operate successfully under such nervous circumstances.

However, Henry Arthur Jones evidently hasn't thought about these little matters though, so he brings Arthur Bourchier back again, after the cutting event, in his blood-stained operating jacket; and while he is calmly cleaning his hands from the "crimson remains" he informs his wife that although he is off to Africa and forgives her, she need be no longer in any state of apprehension as to her lover's safsty, as within four weeks she will be sitting at dinner with her paramour, Archie Kingsford.

What the real wind-up to this unsavoury business is nobody understands; all you can realise is that Arthur Bourchier has succeeded in curing Violet Vanbrugh's "young man," and that in a month's time she may not only invite him to use "The Knife" himself at her own table, but a fork as well into the bargain. Under what conditions, however, the meal is to be eaten, heaven alone knows.

So much for Henry Arthur Jones's first bright, breezy contribution to the music-hall stage, but I wonder if he has given a serious thought to the pain such a play may give—there may be wives, husbands, mothers, friends and sweet companions who have waited while the lives of their dear ones hung on the edge of "the knife." If some of these were amongst the Palace audience, think of the renewed agony this scene would conjure up. Are there any more of this sort of thing coming along? Any sketch with a man in it actually lying on the operating table under the influence of chloroform or ether, being sliced here and there and sewn together again? Why not? It's delightful to be so agreeably amused, and a charming dissecting room with a few dismembered limbs lying about in healthy profusion—dear, dear—what merrier spot could you choose in the whole world?

"THE THING AT CAMBRIDGE."

A "John Bullite" sends a long letter of complaint against the manners of Cambridge "undergrads," but I rather think this sort of behaviour does not belong any more to the Varsity boys than it does to the town boys themselves. I can safely say that my own experience at Oxford was the very reverse of what "Histrion" describes at Cambridge. Anyway, it is but fair to publish the opinion expressed by this correspondent of "J. B.'s" so that the other side may have a chance of airing their views on the subject.

To the Editor of JOHN BULL.

DEAR SIR,—I have been greatly interested in your correspondence on the above subject, and think that my recent experience with Cambridge undergraduates may throw a side-light on the manners of a class of men who are supposed to be representative of English gentlemen. I was playing the leading part at the local theatre at Cambridge, recently, in a play which was admitted by their own Varsity paper to be among the best which had visited their town. The following was our reception:—

Cat-calls, whistling, and alleged "witty" remarks were kept up from rise to fall of the curtain—not one "comedy" line got a laugh. One of the actors, whom I know to be a gentleman, born and bred, and who was playing a most refined and gentlemanly part, was greeted with shouts of derisive laughter when another character made use of the expression, "I can see you're a gentleman." These young "bloods" seemed to consider it a most amusing thing that an actor *could* be a gentleman!

In a scene of mine with the "leading lady," a part played by a young girl of decided ability and stainless reputation, an allusion of mine to her "purity" was greeted with cries of "Oh, oh!" and laughter. These young "aristocrats" evidently deemed it an unutterably "funny" thing that an actress *could* be pure. Every line that was capable of misconstruction or *double-entendre* was promptly twisted into smut.

In short, when I had left the stage-door through groups of drunken or semi-drunken undergraduates, who were evidently waiting there to insult the lady members of our company with their not-to-be-desired attentions, I mentally registered a vow that if ever I send a son of mine to a Varsity it will not be to Cambridge, where public "ragging" seems to overstep all bounds of decency, putting such considerations as gentlemanly conduct and English fairness altogether out of the question.

Yours faithfully, HISTRION

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETINGS.

January 5th.—DAVID BISPHAM.

The singing man keeps his shop in his throat.—*Proverb.*

January 7th.—HERBERT GLADSTONE.

No one can rule except one who can be ruled.—*Seneca.*

January 8th.—SIR ALMA-TADEMA,

Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures.—*H. W. Beecher.*

TRADE NOTE.

A GOOD MEMORY.

An offer is made by Mr. C. L. Pelman to give a number of our readers his course of memory training instruction for half his usual fee. As the present is a time when it is a custom with many to make New Year resolutions, probably a number of readers will accept Mr. Pelman's offer and start 1910 by improving their mental faculties. That the Pelman Course of Training is of real benefit to those who require a sound and retentive memory is amply vouched for in the testimonials Mr. Pelman has received from pupils he has taught in every walk of life. The conditions of Mr. Pelman's offer will be found in our advertisement columns.

THE

'SANITAS-BACTOX'

COAL TAR

1/3 VAPORISER. EACH.

For Whooping Cough, Croup, Asthma, &c.

Meets the demand for a thoroughly efficient Vaporiser, at a reasonable price.

Protected price, 1/3.

Of All Chemists, and

THE SANITAS CO., LTD.

Locksley Street, Limehouse, London, E.

GOUT AND RHEUMATISM.

Sufferers from Gout, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Eczema and all Uric Acid affections willing to be cured by an infallible cure can get a £10 cash gift for the cure. Send addressed envelope to Mr. D. HOLT, 43, New Oxford Street, London. W.C.

PAID TO CLIENTS

£310,240

(The Sign of the N. S. E. is the Sign of the £ s. d.)

THE MESSAGE
OF THE
NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE
TO THE
GREAT BRITISH PUBLIC.

THE NOTE of every great utterance to the British people at the present time by every responsible leader is—Wake up! But such an appeal is only made on a statement of the existing—the present—facts. The indisputable facts about the business of the National Share Exchange are that we have paid away £301,240 to clients. We make money for clients. We lead the way. Others try to follow. Those are the present and indisputable facts, and we are responsible to our clients for future results. Because of this we appeal to you to wake up to the significance of

OUR REMARKABLE OFFER.

(The only condition is that you forward Coupon to us filled in.)

TEN ADVANTAGES.

1. We will send you detailed particulars.
2. You will learn from these how we make money for clients.
3. How with a few pounds it is possible to make hundreds of pounds, and how clients have done so.
4. That your risk is strictly limited to the amount you send.
5. That your profits may be unlimited.
6. That you are not put to any trouble whatever.
7. That similar advantages to those hitherto given to clients will be given to you for half the small amount we have asked from them.
8. That you are getting an offer you have never had before, and no one else has ever had before from us.
9. That no one else has ever had before from *any similar firm*.
10. That cheque for profits will be forwarded you early in the New Year, within a month from the time you use the opportunity offered you.

Our reason for making this offer to the public is in order to make you realise the value of our system of money-making for clients. The offer will be open for a short time only. We may decide to close it at any moment, for we expect to be inundated with applications to share the privileges and advantages it includes. Every new client we make means that we pay away more money in the future than in the past.

By the simple act of filling in Coupon at the side you will be informed of all that we offer you. But it entails no obligation to accept the offer. You judge it on its merits when you get it.

SPECIAL NOTE.

The offer will not be repeated. Clients on our books, or prospective clients in communication with us, are requested not to apply, as it will be unnecessary. The offer will be made to them direct.

Grasp the Important Fact

that we have paid away nearly

⅓ of a MILLION STERLING.

Now grasp the amazing fact that with sufficient clients we can pay away

£1,000,000 Sterling.

APPLICATION FOR PARTICULARS OF REMARKABLE OFFER.

TO THE SECRETARY,
NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE,
Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me (as my name is not already on your books) full particulars of your remarkable offer concerning your methods and system of money-making, as well as a list of cheques totalling £310,240, which you have paid clients acting on your advice and recommendations, together with a Search Form, so that I can verify any single cheque, or batch of cheques, that I may select.

NAME .....
(State Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Title.)

J.B.
R.O.
50.

ADDRESS IN FULL .....

.....

Please Write Distinctly.

DATE ... .

BRUNNER, MOND AND CO.

"TYPICAL FREE-TRADERS."

We have had a large number of letters relating to our article upon this company in our issue of December 18th. Most of these letters thank us heartily for the way in which we have contrasted the fiscal opinions of the Chairman of the company with its practice in dealing with its customers. One correspondent tells us how he was nearly ruined by pressure being put upon Austrian manufacturers to refuse to complete contracts they had entered into with him, and other correspondents in thanking us for our exposure refer to what they consider harsh and unjust treatment. There is only one letter which traverses our statements. It is from Messrs. Luke and Bailey, of 33, Great Tower Street, E.C., and perhaps it is not out of place to mention that they are the leading agents of Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Co. They write as below:—

> We, as large distributors of Alkali and Chemical products generally, have read with great interest your article upon Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Co., Ltd. Without entering upon the political phase, which you probably have in view, we would like to point out one or two errors, as we think in justice to the above-named firm it is our duty to do.
>
> In clause 3, you say:—"That it is not to be sold to any firm to whom Brunner, Mond have supplied anything."
>
> In clause 4:—"That the customer's original order to the merchant must be submitted to Brunner, Mond, and initialled before they will supply the merchant."
>
> Now we feel sure, in justice to all parties, you will allow us to contradict at least these two clauses. The other part of the article does not come within our cognizance. As regards clause 3, we frequently supply soda ash to firms to whom Messrs. Brunner, Mond are supplying other goods, and often by importing from the Continent are able to compete with them in articles they manufacture, other than soda ash.
>
> With regard to clause 4, the customers' original order to the merchant has to be submitted to Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Co., Ltd., to be verified, which we look upon as a great safeguard to us and all dealers. Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Co., Ltd., have in all cases protected the dealers, to their full extent, by registering the names of the customers, hence the above clause enables the dealer or merchant to retain his customers and prevents unfair competition between firms dealing in their articles, by cutting commissions and other such means. Therefore we think we may say on behalf of the trade that such a clause is greatly to its benefit.

It will be noticed that Messrs. Luke and Bailey traverse only two of our statements. They say:—

That it is not true to assert that Brunner, Mond and Co. make it a condition that soda ash shall not be sold to any firm to whom they have supplied anything. Now as to that we had no intention of suggesting that in the case of little tin-pot orders Brunner, Mond and Co. would trouble to object. What we meant was that soda ash in anything like large quantities must not be sold to firms to whom Brunner, Mond and Co. have sold anything, and we shall be surprised to find Messrs. Luke and Bailey disproving that.

With regard to their second statement that we are in error in saying that the customer's original order to the merchant must be submitted to Brunner, Mond and Co., and initialled before they will supply the merchant, we not only say that our statement is absolutely true, but in their letter given above Messrs. Luke and Bailey specifically admit it to be true. Let us put our own and their statement in juxtaposition:—

John Bull, Dec. 18, 1909.	Messrs. Luke & Bailey, Dec. 17, 1909.
"That the customer's original order to the merchant must be submitted to Brunner, Mond and Co., and initialled before they will supply the merchant."	"The customer's order to the merchant has to be submitted to Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Co. to be verified, which we look upon as a great safeguard to us and all dealers."

Safeguard or not, our statement has the absolute confirmation of Messrs. Luke and Bailey, who, in the earlier part of their letter, charge us with misrepresentation as to this particular point.

The Law Guarantee Trust.—With reference to our paragraph respecting this Society, we have received a letter from a Mr. E. J. Swift. Mr. Swift does not tell us his title to speak for the staff, but it is to be inferred from his letter that he is a member of it. He says that "the Liquidators have so far not dismissed one man." But he does not suggest that they are not about to do so, nor does he deny any of our other statements. His chief concern seems to be to belaud Mr. T. R. Ronald.

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

Party Frock Economics.

Never before has the fashion in evening frocks been really kinder to the girl of shallow purse than it is at this moment. Most opportunely, just at the start of the great party season we find ourselves met quite obligingly by Madame Mode, who not only permits but almost commands an arrangement by which we can make several evening frocks from the foundation of one. Most women will grasp what I mean when I speak of an inverted "jumper," that is to say a sleeveless Princesse slip, of satin or soft material, unlined, fastened at the back and caught across the shoulders by narrow straps of ribbon. Over the shoulders and bust of this there goes a square arrangement, rather like a deep yoke with sleeves, and the shortest of short coatees, preferably of some definite embroidery, gold or silver sequins, jewelled, or beaded; or if for a young girl of tucked chiffon or leave-patterned lace. The obvious advantage, of course, is that one can have at least two tops to the same Princesse slip, one high and one low; one suitable for concerts or whist drives, one for a dance or theatre. I know a woman who has a black velvet slip, with one square-cut gold embroidered top with elbow sleeves, for dinners; and one high, long-sleeved one of tucked chiffon and silk braiding, which at once converts the dress into a day costume and completely alters its effect. It would even be possible to have a third to a dress like this, without really overdoing it. The great thing is to have the slip very well-made in the first instance. The tops can easily be made at home. A slip of soft Nattier blue satin might have a swathed top of blue chiffon with a long chiffon sash from the left side of the short waist, edged with silver fringe and caught with an old silver buckle. Then the alternative of a black sequin net bust coat, with long transparent sleeves and long stole ends, back and front, would quite transform the costume.

Votes and Husbands.

I don't know whether I was amused or horrified to read the other day in one of the well-known women's journals a perfectly serious congratulation to match-making mammas on the approach of the General Election. The writer bade these ladies not only take heart of grace and cease to look upon the election as a calamity, but on the other hand to see in it new and brilliant opportunities to get their dear things off their hands. She (the writer) said that though most of the usual social engagements were in abeyance owing to the great national shuffle, the same huge gamble might, and often did, produce marriages by the bringing of women and girls into men's affairs as workers, canvassers, etc. The whole idea was so blatant, so barefacedly vulgar, so extraordinary as showing what weird things go on in some women's minds, that it was productive only of disgust, at first. And yet it has its funny side. Fancy dear Violet or darling Gladys being coached into "enthusing" over some aspect of political life, learning up a few statistics, and acquiring a brief and sketchy knowledge of contemporary people and things, and then setting forth in a new costume (the costume was distinctly mentioned), and making a deadly aim at some future Cabinet Minister, as yet mute, or some Cromwell guiltless of his country's votes! For my part, I feel constrained to warn these gentlemen. 'Ware Gladys, carrying pamphlets and smiling persuasively! The only new Government she wants is a House of her own and herself for Prime Minister.

The Pig-tail Chignon.

Our dear old friend the large, fat plait has come in again, rather inevitably in the wake of the chignon, since that ornament requires something twisted round it, and one cannot wear a ribbon all day long and on every occasion, and the long swish-tail of straight hair affected by Parisian leaders of this mode is quite out of place on the English head.

And whatever may be said against the wearing of incredible ropes of hair by women who certainly did not grow them, the fact remains that they are extraordinarily becoming, especially to people with classical or sharply cut features of any variety: much more so than ribbons arranged on exactly the same lines could possibly be. And the plait is so catholic. It is majestic on one type of woman, Puritan on another, suggests Juliet on another, and on yet another looks quaintly school-girlish. Do not let us go and spoil it before it has a real chance of getting a hold as a style! There is a malign sort of female wandering about this planet, who makes it her business, one would think, to ruin all the prettiest styles by immediately caricaturing them. I can see her already in that plait—a rope of hair three inches across that does not dream of matching her own hair, worn in season and out of season! She ought to be fined.

A Little Lunch Dish.

One of my readers (in Malvern) asks for the recipe for a cheap winter stew, and I am pleased to give her the following, which is particularly nice:—One pound and a half of steak, cut up rather small; one pound of ox-kidney, also cut up into "knobs"; a proportionate quantity of chopped carrots and onions, and salt and pepper to taste. Over this pour enough water to cover nicely, and simmer slowly for two hours in a stew-pan. The cost is very trifling, but the result is excellent, especially if served with mashed potatoes.

"FOOTSHAPE"

THE ALL-LEATHER BOOT.

Frequently Copied and Imitated, but Never Equalled.

THIS IS THE ORIGINAL 8/6 "FOOTSHAPE." It was the first ALL-LEATHER boot to be offered in all the leading London newspapers at **8/6 POST FREE.** Its success was instantaneous and has never wavered since.

EVERY PURCHASER IS STRONGLY IMPRESSED with the extraordinary solidity and quality as compared with boots sold in shops, and in consequence every purchaser recommends our goods to his friends.

IT IS A REMARKABLE BOOT with a remarkable record to its credit, inasmuch as it has been the means of building up the largest Mail-Order Business in the Boot trade.

CONDITIONS OF SALE.—Cash with order. To be returned in full if goods are not approved. We pay postage both ways if it can be shown that value is not as described.

DESCRIPTIONS.

No. 1617.—**BOX CALF BOOT, 8/6.**—Splendid Box Calf Uppers, straight goloah, no outside seam, unbreakable jockey back, toe-capped as illustrated, best linen lined, specially selected, hard-wearing solid leather sole, sewn. Best make and finish throughout.

No. 1717.—**GLACE KID BOOT, 8/6.**—Exactly same style and quality as above, but slightly lighter in weight.

No. 1417.—**BROWN WILLOW CALF, 9/6.**—A magnificent boot. Rich nut brown shade and warranted real "Willow" Calf.

The "Barratt" System of sizes and widths.

GENTLEMEN'S "Footshape" Boots are made in eight different sizes, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (size 12, 1/- extra). Each size is made in four different widths, No. 3 width (for slender feet); No. 4 (medium); No. 5 (wide); No. 6 (extra wide).

Altogether you have 32 different sizes and widths to select from.

HOW TO ORDER.—Fill in the attached Coupon, stating size (length) usually worn, then the width, according to the shape of your foot. If narrow, order No. 3 width; if medium, No. 4 width; if wide, No. 5 width; if extra wide, No. 6 width. This is the simplest and easiest method.

If, however, you do not know what size you take either in length or width, send an old boot, or place your stockinged foot on a sheet of paper and draw an outline by passing a pencil round. The pencil must be kept close to the foot and held perfectly upright. Send the outline with your order, and from this we will select the proper size to fit you.

Cut Out This Coupon, and Send To-day.

OUR CATALOGUE saves Pounds in your Family Boot Bill. **FREE** on receipt of 2d. (to cover cost of postage only).

POST FREE 8/6

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COUPON. "JOHN BULL," Jan. 1, 1910.

Please forward one pair of All-Leather "Footshape" Boots No.....
Size ..... Width ..... on condition that if not approved cash will be refunded in full and postage paid both ways.

Name.....
Address .....
.....

Glace Kid or Box Calf, 8/6. Brown Willow Calf, 9/6.

W. BARRATT & CO., LTD.,
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ALMANACK with full particulars, POST FREE.
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Instant Relief.

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT—Plum Pudding & INDIGESTION

YOU MAY EAT THE RICHEST PLUM PUDDING without the slightest fear of INDIGESTION

You have SKIN LIKE VELVET when you take "MOTHER'S ADVICE." From all Chemists and Stores, price 1/1½ and 2/9, or direct from

If you take **"MOTHER'S ADVICE"** (formerly called CICFA).

The only remedy which digests all kinds of food, including starchy foods like potatoes, bread, etc., and all albumenous foods, like meat, eggs, etc. Flatulence, Constipation, Acidity, etc., are also cured and prevented by "Mother's Advice."

All the tortures of Indigestion, the Acidity and Heartburn, with teeth on edge, the Burning Spot behind the left shoulder blade, with pains shooting through towards the heart, the heart palpitation, with cold hands and feet, and general weakness, the flatulence and pressure and discomfort, the rumbling and often excruciating bowel pain, are all due to your failure to digest your food, and three-quarters of it is due to failure to digest starchy foods like Bread, Potatoes, Bananas, etc., but you like to eat those and you need them, and if you could digest them you would have non of this pain, discomfort and misery, and you would have all the nourishment which comes from such food when well digested. "MOTHER'S ADVICE" perfectly digests starchy and all other foods.

CAPSULOIDS (1909) LTD., 47, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By Walter Moore.

XXX.—MR. ROBERT BLATCHFORD.

Forcing my way through a crowd of angry Socialists who were besieging the editorial offices of the *Clarion*, I inquired for Mr. Blatchford.

"Mr. Blatchford is at the offices of the *Daily Mail*," explained the secretary. "He practically lives there now."

Consequently I hurried round to Carmelite House, and having satisfied the commissionaire that I was no Socialist, was shown into the presence of the greatest patriot of modern times—a man who has had the courage to sink his Socialistic principles in the face of the danger which he believes to be threatening the existence of the British Empire.

"You have put a nice spoke into the Radical wheel," I commenced. "I don't know whether to congratulate you or the *Daily Mail*, for having engineered one of the smartest electioneering moves of the century. You have cleverly dragged a German sausage across the track, and have diverted the hounds which were supposed to be yelping for the blood of the House of Lords. Coming from you, a famous Socialist, your articles will receive greater credence than would have been the case had they emanated from a full-blooded Tariff Reformer."

"Yes, they have already created a great stir," said Mr. Blatchford, with a smile of satisfaction.

"But tell me," I asked, "are you absolutely convinced that the danger is as great as you make out? Or are you lending your great powers unworthily to the cause of party politics?"

Mr. Blatchford clenched his fist and brought it down with a resounding blow on to the desk.

"I am absolutely convinced that the danger I have exposed is as great, if not greater, than I have made out. I am a Socialist, with somewhat modified views, maybe; but I am an Englishman first and foremost, and I will never allow what I may call party shibboleths to stand in my way when danger appears."

"I believe you are sincere, Mr. Blatchford," I said, "but, unfortunately, the journal you have selected for the dissemination of your views and warning is such a strong party organ that you have laid yourself open to suggestions which are not altogether creditable."

"I cannot help that," said Mr. Blatchford; "I naturally selected the paper with the biggest circulation—of course, I refer to daily papers. Its politics are nothing to me provided its readers are numerous."

"The German papers seem rather annoyed. They apparently resent your exposure of German ambition and German preparation to satisfy that ambition."

"The attitude of the German press," remarked Mr. Blatchford, "is a confirmation of the truth of my statements. But whilst they rage to find their secret plans given to the light of day, I have no doubt they trust to the notorious stupidity and pigheadedness of the average Britisher, and will go forward with their ambitious schemes until they find we have properly woke up."

"And do you think we are likely to do that?" I asked. "Do you think it possible, by means of a few newspaper articles, to disturb the habitual self-complacency of your countrymen?"

"I do not," confessed Mr. Blatchford. "We shall not wake up until the enemy is at the gates, and probably with one leg over the garden wall. It was always so. It will always be so, I fear. But I shall at least have the satisfaction of knowing that I have uttered a warning."

"Speaking for yourself for a moment," I said, "I believe that the modification that has taken place in your Socialistic views has surprised the country rather more than the facts you have published in the *Daily Mail*. What brought that modification about?"

"Time," replied Mr. Blatchford. "One looks at life and humanity with different eyes at sixty than at thirty-six. In the exuberance of youth, one is prone to believe one's ideals could be realised. But with the progress of years, one begins to see that an ideal form of Socialistic government is only possible with a people of ideal character—which we are not."

"And you think we can never become so?" I asked.

"*Nunquam*," replied Mr. Blatchford.

OUR WEEKLY BALLOT SCHEME.

In our present issue we publish the whole of the drawn numbers up to and including those relating to last week's issue, the Scheme having now been suspended, pending a further and important announcement.

It is Xtravagant

to buy new things when your old ones can be successfully renovated and made not only fit for use, but actually to look almost as new. And that is what the Achille Serre scientific Dry-cleaning process can do for your soiled and stained suits, dresses or curtains.

We have practised this process for over 30 years with the utmost success, and we are sure we can please you. It does not cost much—only 3/9 for a complete suit—and the time taken is but a few days.

Write to-day for a copy of our pamphlet "Clothes and the Man" and the address of our nearest branch or agency.

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VISIBLE WRITING, about which a good deal has been heard of late, is not a new thing: it was provided in the No. 1 OLIVER MORE THAN TWELVE YEARS AGO!

HAVING DECRIED Visible Writing all these years, our competitors, compelled by the trend of events, suddenly changed front and have conceded its great value in the most emphatic way possible: they have started to build—Visible Writers!

THIS TENDS to lower still further the value of second-hand "blind" typewriters, already depreciated owing to the rapidly increasing popularity of the OLIVER STANDARD VISIBLE WRITER; and this fall in price must become greater as the Typewriting Schools turn out operators who, being trained on Visible Writers, will find it difficult to use the old "blind" machines, which will then be of very little use.

NEVERTHELESS, we will—for a limited time only—accept these obsolete machines at an exceptionally liberal valuation in part payment for our latest model OLIVER Typewriter, a machine that embodies, in addition to Visible Writing, many advantages not possessed by any other typewriter.

SOONER OR LATER you will want to weed out your old-fashioned "blind" machines and substitute OLIVERS. Our offer is your opportunity. Write now, giving the reference 583B.

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Handbook Dept., Sloan-Duployan Association, Ramsgate.

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—
Isn't the political "situation" vacant?
Didn't the Premier have a Merseyful escape at Liverpool?
Hasn't Dr. Cook been found—out?
Wouldn't "*Dons*"-*mark* be a better name?
Don't Blatchford's *Mail* articles sound a *Clarion* note of warning?
When will the Aerial League make *aerial* start?
Isn't Free Trade being well Caird-for just now?
Are the Boy Scouts Baden's?
Is the Socialist-Labour party now in money-tarry difficulties?
Isn't the Government rather good at putting things "in order" at the right time?
What is the difference between a musical play and a music-hall play?

SOME NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS :—
The Premier will endeavour to keep his place.
Mr. Gladstone will get packed
Mr. Ure will take the oath.
W. T. Stead will abjure spirit
Mr. Lloyd George will stop trying to "Lime us."
The Peers will "put a little by for a Socialist reigny day."
Dr. Cook will correct the proofs of his story.
Mr. Mond will study the "art" of "self-defence."
John Burns will try to "get his own back."
Sir Herbert Tree will only play "title" roles.
Hall Caine will try to make a better "Prophet."
The Suffragettes will continue to "quit themselves like men."
Lord Charles Beresford will study the short cuts to Whitehall.
The Brewers will beware the "turn of the tied."
Bart Kennedy will show some respect for the English language.
Kennerley Rumford will only give boxes to his friends.
Coal-dealers will reform their weighs.
Jim Crow will decline to be rooked.
The John Bull League will "spread itself."

We read of a Kursaal for Bournemouth pronounced by some people—Curse-all.

The *Mail* has a heading, Mr. Burns back to life. His election is now a dead cert.

It is not surprising to read that Miss Peppercorn, the new pianist, met with a warm reception.

Sir Crichton Browne considers whiting "the chicken of the sea." At some restaurants it is foul.

Miner as singer, we read. His voice should have depth.

No triangles, reads a *Star* heading. But there will be plenty of the big drum.

In an American separation case £2,000 was spent on telegrams. A good many wires to cut the knot.

A provision merchant advertises that all fresh eggs will be marked with a "D." The inscription on stale ones would of course be unprintable.

The astronomer who thinks that we shall come in contact with the tail of Halley's comet, and that "the Earth must go through it," might have put it differently.

Curious that the more popular an actor is, the more people look down upon him.

"John Burns at a Fire," we read. He must have got too near.

Record catches of herrings are reported from the north-west of Ireland. There should be a good net result.

"Politics is the easiest of subjects upon which to write," says the *Eton College Chronicle*. Because it is so easy to wrong.

"On Keeping Dry," is the title of a *Mirror* article. Does our contemporary speak as an expert?

If, as Mr. W. Middlebrook, M.P., asserts, "all genuine labour is dignified," hard labour should make men upright.

Answer to Inquirer: No, the play, "Duke or Devil," is not by a "synonymous" author.

"The secret of my success is keeping it a secret," Mr. Joseph Lyons said recently. He believes in "no tips."

The General Election will give voters—who have to "pay their money" in any case—the opportunity of "taking their choice."

"How to Avoid Appendicitis" has just been published. We take it the book has no appendix.

"Liberal Election Allies," reads a headline. One must be careful in pronouncing the last word.

"Love of work is the most important quality of genius," says Sir Charles Holroyd. Possibly, but we notice that a genius is always extremely anxious to get rid of his work.

Lord Charles Beresford complains that the Admiralty harpooned him in the back. Perhaps they took him for a "wail."

The man charged with stealing another child in mistake for his own should plead that "it's a wise father that knows his own child."

The Austrian Parliament, which recently "sat" continuously for eighty-six hours, ought to have hatched something.

TOILET SOAP OATINE PURELY ANTISEPTIC

OATINE TOILET SOAP

Great Introductory Offer.

10,000 Tablets to be Distributed Free.

At the request of numerous patrons who have found the ordinary 1s. size tablets of Oatine Soap too large and a little heavy, we are now making Oatine Soap in smaller size tablets, which are known as "Visitors Tablets." They are identical (except in size) with the full size tablets, and will be found most useful to those who prefer a smaller tablet.

In order to thoroughly introduce this new size to the public, we have decided to present one of the tablets free to the first 10,000 applicants taking advantage of our ordinary sample offer, particulars of which are given below.

Oatine Toilet Soap is manufactured from the very finest materials, and is scientifically compounded from the pure nearing essence of the finest Oats. Washing with Oatmeal Water and Oatmeal Soap has always been popular, but Oatine Soap is far superior to Oatmeal Soaps, because it contains the essence of the Oats as well as the husks, instead of only the husks as do ordinary Oatmeal soaps. It gives a soft creamy lather, which leaves the skin soft and velvety, and greatly improves the complexion.

OUR OFFER.

We will send on receipt of attached coupon, a copy of our Booklet, "Beauty Hints," and a box containing samples of Oatine Cream, Balm, Face Powder, Soap, Talcum Powder, Tooth Paste, Soap in Tubes, and Kylets to all sending 3d. in stamps (halfpenny stamps preferred), together with

A Full-Size Visitors Tablet of OATINE SOAP

as explained above.

THE OATINE CO.,
270, Denman St. London, S.E.

Coupon for Free Tablet of OATINE TOILET SOAP. 270

TOILET SOAP OATINE PURELY ANTISEPTIC

SOUND SECURITY FOR DEPOSITORS

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Branches and Agencies in Every County.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The EDITOR *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

G. H. (Ilford) suggests that we should privately offer the Keynsham guardians a bottle of whisky each, and see if they refuse. All our New Year's gifts, however, have now been allocated.

LIEUT. MERCIER, City of London U.A., tells us that a regulation blucher has been available for sale at Territorial battalion headquarters at the price of 6s. since the summer of 1908. We are always glad of information.

A. A. (Barnsley).—We believe that, taking the last fifty years, the "honours" are with the Liberals in regard to the creation of peers.

J. H. S. (Sedbergh) and others criticise our recent reference to the ingredients of a Christmas pudding. The proof of it, however, is in the eating. We shall be pleased to hear from them again after they have tried it—assuming that they are still alive.

"A LONDON WORKHOUSE MASTER" tells us that in the institution under his control the guardians have already adopted the method we recently suggested for dealing with snorers, by having them put into a separate ward, and they find the scheme works with satisfaction to all concerned. He sends us a cordial invitation to go and listen to the melodious music which arises nightly from the snorers' ward.

W. J. P. (London) suggests the plebiscite of our readers as to the most popular features of this journal, but we are not very keen on following the methods of other papers.

"GEORGE" (Gateshead) tells us that the guardians, also, refused to allow the inmates of his local workhouse a glass of beer at Christmas, although a local publican had offered to present the beverage free of charge. What a lot of branches of the John Bull League are wanted!

"JOCELYN" (Dewsbury) calls our attention to the fact that in our "Thoughts on the Dead Parliament" we quite overlooked Mr. Runciman the Minister for Education. Perhaps it was all for the best.

"LEAGUITE" (Burton-on-Trent) sends us a cutting from the *Burton Evening Gazette* containing a letter from a local resident in which occurs the phrase, "Oh! for a Business Government, where party feelings and party strife will be eliminated!" There is no doubt the League is catching on.

H. T. G. (Manchester).—We are afraid no petitions to the British Government would be of avail in regard to the internal affairs of Spain.

E. P. (Peckham Rye) calls our attention to the flat-trappers, Cray Stewart and Co., 25, Milton Street, E.C., who advertise—"4s. monthly, Skirts, etc., by easy payments." Of course it is the old trick—the goods are not sent until the whole of the purchase price has been paid.

E. J. B. sends us a miscellaneous assortment of fly papers, which he obtained by answering some recent advts. in a Girls' Paper—including those of the London General Supply Association and the Bargain Watch Co., 89, Cornwallis Road, N., both practitioners of the old "simulation 18 carat gold chain" trick.

F. P. (Birmingham) says that the motor men and conductors on the Stratford Road route of the Birmingham Corporation Tramways are spied upon. He also knows a "Birmingham member of a church who will only allow his son to go out on three nights of the week, as it is not good for his morals." What an excellent reason!

B. S. (London).—We are aware of the circumstances *re* the Piccadilly Hotel—which are certainly suspicious.

T. B. (Derby) has been writing to the Bishop of Southwell on Ascension Day three years in succession to point out to his Lordship that the collect for the day proves that "Sacerdotalism is unwarrantable intrusion." He dubs this one-sided correspondence "Episcopal Insolence and a Dignified Rebuke." Perhaps it was also a dignified rebuke to take no notice of letters which were not precisely monuments of tact.

J. R. D. (Bristol) complains that facts are suppressed at inquests. He says that where suicide has been caused by worry, the author of the worry ought not to go scot free, without even the world's censure. We think, however, there is already far too much publication of private matters in connection with cases in the courts.

C. K. (London, N.) wants a biscuit for a lady who advertised: "Good swearing parrot wanted." But we do not see why the good lady should be denied an opportunity of venting her feelings by the possession of a vicarious bird.

G. O. (Radnor) says that Magna Charta alludes to the Church of England, not the Church of Rome. He informs us that "the Church is the same now as a thousand years ago, but with its face washed." We must not embark upon theological controversies.

H. D. P. (Gravesend) is about the 133rd person who asks whether the King of England has a surname. "Edward the Peacemaker" is his Majesty's full title.

R. T. (South Wales) sends an invitation to Jim Crow to lecture to the Rhondda Naturalists' Society, choosing his own subject. He waives his claim in favour of Mr. Kipling.

h. E. F. (Lee).—We quite agree with the sentiments expressed in your beautiful lines:—

"Woman's suffrage is a movement
In the right direction;
But it should be undertaken
With a little more discretion."

"PENGE" writes: "In case of war, if all the men were called out to man every ship in the Navy, could they do it?" What men?

"SOLID" (Bolton) writes: "Why not try Tariff Reform for, say, seven years?" We have no objection.

W. A. M. (London, E.C.) wants us to devote a page or two to musical compositions by amateurs, because "the interest taken in music by rich and poor, and by men and women in all stations of life, from lord to labourer, is increasingly large." Oh!

B. T. (Reigate) says: "Few children of good quality should be the rule among the poor as well as among the rich and middle-classes." But how is their quality to be assured?

C. G. (London, N.).—Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has sat in the late House of Commons for a few months only, but his constituents don't mind being disfranchised so long as "Joe" is their member.

A. E. P. (Ealing).—We imagine it would be safe to send in a good topical song to the manager of any respectable music-hall. Better still, go and see him, or sing it to him. Or sell it direct to one of the performers.

J. H. (London, S.E.).—We do not advise our friends to invest in Hamburg lotteries.

J. H. O. (Wisbech).—Puns on the names of local celebrities are not of enormous general interest.

J. W. S. (Catford) and B. C. (Winkleigh) send us one of the "Dear Friend" effusions from the M. A. Winter Co., in reference "to new position to be filled." This is stated to be of a "high-class and dignified nature." Free of euphemy, it is selling at a staggering price of chocolate drops as a remedy for every disease under the sun.

W. G. M. (Hastings).—We have had no personal experience of the medical apparatus about which you inquire, but believe it may be obtained upon approval.

G. H. R. (Weston-super-Mare) suggests the formation of a League to boycott our Journal. What a splendid advertisement for us!

E. G. G. (Egham) complains of the overcharges of Carter, Paterson and Co. All these charges ought to be resisted.

A. D. (Enfield) disapproves of the methods of the Oraxi Company (145, Romford Road, E.).

T. C. (Brixton) complains about "the iniquitous practice of early doors at suburban theatres." We do not quite see why it is "an illicit practice" to charge extra for early access to unreserved seats. Of course, if there is any hanky-panky in the matter, our correspondent is quite right to protest.

G. R. A. (Croydon) wants us to discuss an advertisement which he omits to enclose.

J. E. D. (Manchester) says that the evils of unemployment are due in great part to the carelessness, brutality, and improvidence of the average working-class husband. We do not see how "a more enlightened education" is going to mend matters.

H. B. C. (Stratford) brings charges of immorality against a parson, but the parsons are just as human as laymen, and sometimes more so.

"AN ENGLISHMAN" says that the Tories would certainly reduce pensions to a favoured few. So we must keep friends with them.

"INTERESTED," who is unfortunately anonymous, informs us that the A.B.C. Co. employs paid spies who visit the various depots as ordinary customers. We wish our correspondents would remember that we require their names and addresses as a guarantee of good faith.

"A WOMAN" (Lichfield) is mistaken in thinking we are not read by Unionists. Otherwise, how does he account for our circulation?

"MACK" (Bournemouth) sends us the following immortal lines:—

"We scorn the Budget yoke,
For it's nothing but a cloak;
But Balfour is our man—
He's led us through this mighty wave;
Three cheers our little Band him gave
For thought of home and beauty (again)
Along the line this signal ran. . . ."

Mr. Kipling will have to look to his cow bell.

ANXIOUS ONE.—The Editor hopes to introduce his Divorce Law Reform Bill next Session.

C. B. (Sheffield) asks whether we knew that "doormice had shells"? It is evidently possible to be mad without being funny.

A New and Remarkable Treatment for

RHEUMATISM AND GOUT.

Write at Once for Particulars.

"They say it gives immediate relief."

If you are a sufferer don't hesitate to become acquainted with this marvellous cure for Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica, Lumbago. It is so sure, that we have never yet received a complaint that it has not given satisfactory results. We want every person suffering from this the most painful complaint of human ills, to try this new method, and there is no reason why they should not do so. Doctors in all parts of the world have tried to cure this complaint, but at last a successful method has been discovered. *This is quite a new treatment,* and does not entail the slightest inconvenience. You have no obnoxious drugs to take—no cumbersome instruments or electric appliances to use, but just a simple home method which will effect a long felt desire—a cure.

Its Rheumatism.

Mr. J. Downing, of County Cork, writes: "I beg to say that your Rheumatic treatment cured me. I am able to go about my ordinary occupation as well as ever, after trying a good many different treatments."

You can obtain the same results.

FREE Just write enclosing stamp for postage asking for FREE particulars of our proved remedy for Rheumatism and Gout, and same will be sent you by return. You cannot do better than try that which gives such remarkable results. Write to-day—A. RICHARDS, 25, Hart St., London, W.C.

LIPTON'S COCOA

The Most Nutritious.

Think for a moment of the real advantage of obtaining your Cocoa from a firm of world-wide repute, sole proprietors of Cocoa Estates, possessing the most recent and complete installation of Cocoa machinery, a firm whose unique position makes it possible for them to sell the very Finest Quality Cocoa at a price only half the usual charge for high-grade Cocoa.

Such a firm is LIPTON'S. They alone occupy the positions of GROWERS, MANUFACTURERS and RETAILERS, a combination which assures the Public

FINEST QUALITY,

ONE PROFIT, and

ONE PRICE,

PER 1/6 POUND.

which is within the reach of all.

ON SALE EVERYWHERE

LIPTON LTD.,

Cocoa Planters, Ceylon

To Lovers of Good Tobacco

One of these Blends will prove to be the very Blend you've sought.

"TWO HOURS" Mixture 5d. per oz.
Cool, Fragrant, and absolutely Pure.

"ALDERWOOD" Mixture 5½d. per oz.
In Three Strengths. Our Latest Success.

"LUNTIN" Mixture 6½d. per oz.
In Three Strengths.
The Blend that made us famous.

"MOUND" Mixture 1/4 per 2 ozs.
Blended from the finest leaf procurable.

All the Best Tobacconists supply the above, but should you have any difficulty, send stamps to the amount for Samples to the Manufacturers,

THOMSON and PORTEOUS, EDINBURGH.

ALEXINE.

MANY PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO EAT TOO MUCH in order to eat enough.

What you eat—how much you eat—or even how much you digest—is not the whole question.

By stimulating your appetite and aiding your digestion you may be only overloading your system with waste products.

ALEXINE will enable you to "get all the good out of your food." It is neither a food nor a medicine, but an aid to Nature.

The active principle of ALEXINE is free phosphoric acid, which acts upon the otherwise insoluble phosphates in your food and in your system, and enables your brain, your nerves and your muscle to take them up and make use of them.

Obtainable through all Chemists at 2/9 and 4/6 per bottle; or from sole British Agents at same prices, post free.

THOS. CHRISTY & CO.,
4, 10, 12, Old Swan Lane, London, E.C.

LEARN HOW TO CURE YOUR

RUPTURE

BY NEW AND PAINLESS METHOD.

FREE.

A wonderful new System for curing all forms of Rupture quickly and painlessly has been discovered by Capt Collings. It cured him when nothing else would, and after doctors had given his case up as hopeless. He was so delighted with his discovery, that he told every sufferer from Rupture that he knew and could hear of about it, with the result that they also tried his System, and in every case a complete cure was effected with it. He is now anxious that every sufferer throughout the length and breadth of the land should know about it, and he therefore offers to send to everybody who cares to write, without any charge whatever, full particulars of his wonderful System and a free Test, so that they can cure themselves as he has been cured, and hundreds of others who have tried his treatment have been cured also.

Take advantage of this generous offer without delay and do not suffer a moment longer than is necessary.

All that you have to do is to write and describe your Rupture, and what you have already done to obtain relief. Do not hesitate, write at once. Simply fill in and send coupon below, and all will be sent you Free.

FREE TEST COUPON.

Capt. W. A. COLLINGS & SONS (Box 11),
32, Theobald's Road London, W.C.

Dear Sirs:—Send me Free the Information and Test, that I may cure my Rupture.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA

Insurance Corporation, Limited.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - £350,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. HOUSE PURCHASE.

The Corporation issues prospectuses with entirely new features in all departments of business. Agency applications invited. Write for prospectuses, and particulars of Agents' Progressive Bonus Scheme.

Chief Office, 45-48, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

J. H. B. B. (Glasgow) asks why English bucket shop swindlers nearly always trade under Scots names? To show that they are respectable and cautious, we suppose.

"PHOTOS" (Ilford) complains of the London Fine Art Co., of 19, Beaconsfield Road, Leyton.

"A CONSTANT READER" (Horsham) wants a biscuit for a paper which related how John Hughes, a cripple, "minus both feet and legs to the knees," fell down and could not "regain his feet," as he was drunk and incapable. But there is nothing to show that he was in possession of his feet when he fell down. Perhaps he was run over by a Haymarket taxi on that occasion.

CURIOUS" (London, S.W.) enquires about the London Social Guides (Albemarle Mansions, Albemarle Street, W.). They offer to provide visitors with men or lady guides possessed of an intimate knowledge of London from every point of view, and they are open to provide confidential friends. This sounds interesting.

"BE FAIR" (Aintree).—It was certainly silly of the *Liverpool Echo* to publish an advertisement of a firm, and then to boast in a report of a police case that the advertisement has been seen by the prosecutor "in an evening paper, *not* the *Echo*."

"DOUBTFUL" wants to know whether a clergyman of the Church of England has ever refused the Sacrament to a woman who has divorced her husband.

A. P. (Lichfield).—What a lot of red tape! What a pity there is not a business man in command of the War Office!

C. C. (Gloucester) gives us his reasons for joining the John Bull League, but we are quite satisfied with the fact that he has consented to join.

M. M. G. (Worcester).—The following advertisement can scarcely be described as modest:—"Wanted Country Cottage near Worcester, also Post Office and Church, for gentleman and lady." Do they intend to marry?

P. McC. (Canning Town) sends us a paper in which a case of conscience arises. A man in an office is entrusted with the postage of letters. Some of them have to be delivered in the immediate neighbourhood, so he takes them himself and pockets the stamps. This is denounced by the Editor as robbery of the Postmaster-General. We should have thought that the person more immediately affected was the owner of the office.

G. D. (Boston, Lancs.) was fined 5s. and 5s. 6d. costs for carrying insufficient light on a motor cycle. At the same court (Spilsby, Lincolnshire), two men were summoned for driving a motor car without a light, and their cases were dismissed on payment of costs. This seems somewhat unreasonable.

E. B. (Ladywood) writes from what he calls "The Forbidden City of Brum" to offer us a "rymne." The first verse is too good not to be printed:

> Awake ye people of Britton Great
> Awake before it is too late;
> Put an end to all this Liberal storm
> And vote for the victory of *Tariff Reform*
> Take no heed of Loyde George, but tell him to fudge it,
> He's not invented a poor man's Budget."

Mr. Kipling must look to his laurels.

R. W. B. (Glasgow).—The dodge of the London Incandescent Co., 65, Station Road, Camberwell has often been exposed by us.

"A READER OF JOHN BULL" (Castleford), writing about what he calls "the cruelty to animals association," says that "there is five fined for mange." Oh dear, oh dear!

M. H. (Kentish Town) suggests that the prayer for the High Court of Parliament should also be struck out of the Prayer Book. We suppose he thinks it past praying for.

J. W. P. (Peckham) tells us that our Biscuits sometimes result in the dismissal of a careless compositor. Too bad! It is the sub-editor that should have the sack.

"DISGUSTED" draws our attention to the fact that Baden-Powell said Scottish boys were better scouts than English ones, and that he regretted he was not a Scot himself. Our correspondent is also sorry, but perhaps the Scots are not.

I. R. (Clapham) is dissatisfied with R. Abel and Co., cycle people (Whitstable), whom he denounces in strong terms.

W. P. (Hounslow) enquires about the London General Supply Association (72, Finsbury Pavement, E.C.), who appear to be chain tricksters.

B. B. (Walworth) enquires where he could commute his Army pension of 1s. 3d. a day. He should write to Mr. Haldane.

S. B. (Hornsey Rise).—We see no reason why a Christian character should prevent a man from being a pork butcher. Rather the reverse.

J. B. (Eastbourne) sends us some verses about royal bastards, and says: "I could not help it. It bubbled over." The poem begins as follows:—

> "Men of England
> Who toil and earn bread for yourselves
> And meat for gilded snobs and snakes in lawn
> Who sit in gilded halls. . ."

We suppose the idea is to rub the gilt off the snakes' gingerbread.

J. B. (Bristol) wants a biscuit for Mr. Rowlands, M.P., for stating that he has Lord Rosebery in his pocket. Evidently he does not regard Lord Rosebery as a very big man.

H. J. (Merton) asks the cost of membership of the National Sporting Club. Why not ask the secretary?

"FLAVUS SECUNDUS" objects to the term "psychological moment" as "slovenly, meaningless journalese." He asks: "Did anyone ever ask himself what 'the mental second' means?" But there are moments which call for special mental activity, and it might, therefore, not be ridiculous to associate them specially with the mind.

"SCOTTIE" (Canada) sends us a pickle label with the words "Glasgow, England," and suggests that that is where the Canadian postal officials obtained their information. They certainly got into a pickle.

C. P. (London, W.) inquires about the National Eye Hospital (123, Oxford Street), having been told that it is not a place where well-qualified men attend to the patients. We know not, oh, we know not. Perhaps it is all our eye.

J. B. (Malta) wants a biscuit for a paper which alludes to "six ladies and one woman," but though ladies may be described as women, it does not follow in these days that every woman is a lady.

D. W. (Barrhead).—Perhaps the extempore prayer "Grant us an heirship in the eternal life" was intended as a reference to aviation.

[We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

Suchard's

Grand Sampling Offer.

Knowing that Suchard's Ibis Cocoa need only be tried once to be used always, the manufacturers have decided to present, gratis and post free, a sixpenny packet of either of their well-known Chocolates *to every fresh purchaser* of a ½lb. tin of "Ibis" Cocoa. This offer is made solely for the purpose of introducing to anyone not yet acquainted with Suchard's Specialities, a Cocoa and a Chocolate of superlative excellence.

How to Obtain the Free Gift.

First purchase a quarter-pound tin of Suchard's Cocoa ("Ibis" Brand) from your grocer. It will cost you 8½d.

Inside the round tin (just at the top) will be found a paper disc, which is here reproduced. This disc you should attach to the coupon at the foot of this announcement, which after being filled up, should be sent to Messrs. Suchard, 33, King William Street, London, E.C. A disc from ½-lb. or 1-lb. tin will do equally well.

Fac-simile of disc to be sent with Coupon.

In return you will receive a full sixpenny packet of one of Suchard's well-known makes of Chocolate—"Milka," or "Milnut" (Noisettine). You are given the choice.

Suchard's Cocoa ("Ibis" Brand).

There are many good cocoas, but none that can compare with Suchard's ("Ibis" Brand). Suchard's is altogether more palatable, digestible and nourishing than any other cocoa made. It represents the very highest quality yet attained in cocoas—you need only try it to prove that this is so.

Nor can there be any doubt about its economy for family use—a breakfast cup full, at full strength, only costs a farthing.

Suchard's "Milka" Chocolate.

Combining the purest Chocolate with genuine Swiss Milk, "Milka" possesses all the good points of other Milk Chocolates, but it has this special advantage, it does not cloy in the palate.

Suchard's "Milnut" (Noisettine).

A chocolate with a most delicious hazelnut flavour. This speciality has only recently been on the market, but has already achieved a striking success. It is a characteristic "Suchard" sweet—toothsome, nutritious, and absolutely pure.

Owing to the great cost of this free offer scheme not more than one Gift Packet can be sent to each address. Readers are respectfully requested not to send duplicate coupons. Further supplies of Suchard's Chocolate must be obtained from Confectioners, &c., throughout the Country.

Coupon for Free 6d. Packet of Chocolate.

(Only one Gift Packet sent to same address.)

To Messrs. SUCHARD, 33, King William Street, London, E.C.

Sirs,—Having purchased a ½-lb. tin of Suchard's Cocoa, please send in accordance with your offer, one 6d. packet of Suchard's * "Milka" or "Milnut" (Noisettine) Chocolate. I attach disc taken from the tin, which entitles me to this packet.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

* Cross out the brand not chosen. JOHN BULL, 1.1.10

A discovery in flavour, the result of years of study in blends and make, and an enormous success.

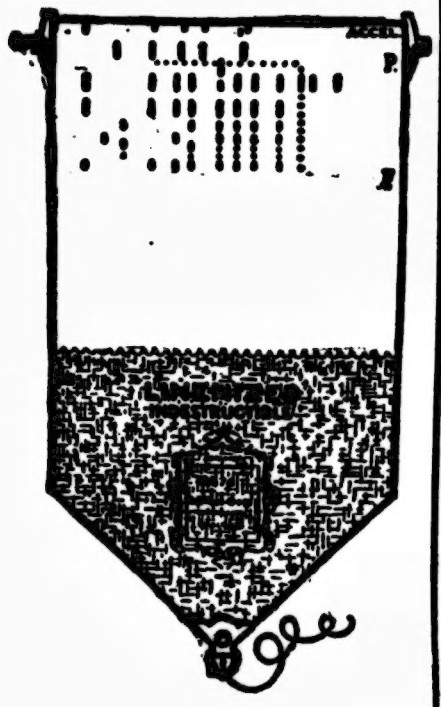
VELMA

CHOCOLATE

IMPERIAL
'LINENIZED' MUSIC ROLLS
A
GOOD RESOLUTION
FOR
1910.

"I will use only Imperial Linenized Music Rolls."

Because they are **Musically Perfect.**
Because they are **Universally Praised.**
Because they are **Satisfactorily Arranged.**
Because they are **Immeasurably Superior,**
Because they **Cost Much Less than Others.**
Because they **Run Perfectly.**
Because we **Only Employ British Labour.**
Because they **Last Longer.**
Because they **Look Neater and are always Clean.**
Because they **Stand any Climate.**



Our Circulating Library contains over 200,000 rolls and Subscription can be paid by deferred payment system; and a permanent home library of 60 to 70 rolls may be secured by the same method of payment.

Send 6d. for Sample Tester Roll and Catalogue J.B,

POST FREE.

THE PERFORATED MUSIC CO., LTD., 94, Regent Street, London, W.

EDINBURGH—99, Princes Street. PARIS—34, Rue Louis le Grand.

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.
(*"Larry Lynx" of* THE PEOPLE, *and "Magpie" of* THE GLOBE.)

Our "Crack" Jockey.

There are still a few of the coloured and mounted life-like cartoons of little Frank Wootton, in his father's colours, for those having public places to hang them in, and sending 1d. towards the postage to the Publisher, *Throne and Country*, 67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

An Outcome of Ownership.

Nothing gets a man better known, or can more popularise one, than the ownership of a GOOD racehorse. It is strange how plenty of people become absolutely known and identified by their being in such positions. We would, for instance, much better recognise Sir W. C. Cooper, whose Perola won the Oaks, by terming him "Mattie MacGregor's" owner. Again, Mr. J. B. Joel is often called Mr. "Dean Swift" Joel, while no one will ever dissociate Mr. Tom Worton from Victor Wild. Mr. Bendon, too, has become the "Ebor" man; Mr. "Fairie" the "Bayardo" man, etc., etc.

A Colonial Plan.

The frequently serious situation of matters in regard to future event betting brings to mind an idea that I have always maintained, that, with racing such a huge commercial matter nowadays, and so many thousands being influenced thereby all over Great Britain, Weatherby's office, as the one official bureau, should be always open. On the Saturday, for instance, before the Cesarewitch, there were rumours that K. C. B. had been scratched, that Maya was to be, and that, similarly, Dibs and others were under a cloud. Why, then, should the enormously interested British public be compelled to wait from mid-day on Saturday untill well into the morning of Monday before knowing what *had* actually transpired? The Press Association and other news sources were appealed to, but were not in a position to give any authentic information, although in the clubs it was open gossip that certain erasures had actually been made. This news—absolutely unpublished in either Saturday evening's or Sunday papers—could not reach far afield, and therefore many substantial monetary matters were seriously influenced.

Where anything concerns so many people and involves so much money, in what is literally a national pastime, none of the old-time ideas of primitiveness should be permitted to control and to open up a channel of immense and deliberate robbery by some who might be well aware of matters and turn them to unfair account.

In the Colonies, the offices where scratchings must be made are *never* closed, and, in addition, immediately *any* horse is struck out of a race at the time in the public eye, and creating general wagering, the erasure is instantly posted publicly.

Prophetic.

Hurst Park bridges over the old and the new year, and although the fields cannot be large, there must be some fair sport. Writing many days ahead—in consequence of the holidays—I cannot do other than point to the very probable success of MACNAOIMH—especially in the Palace Selling Handicap, of SEE SEE in the Novices Plate, BARBED HEAD in the Molesey Handicap, and, particularly, of GREATOR in the Richmond Hurdle Handicap.

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OUR WEEKLY BALLOT FOR 100 HELPERS AT A GUINEA APIECE.

Below we give the four lists of 100 numbers which have been selected by ballot from among those published on the front pages of the issues named.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date* bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify *the date* and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA, in return for his (or her) using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following Claims have been received for the issues of November 13th and 20th:—

BERT C. CLACK, 11, Park Street, Southsea. (No. 11,522.—November 13th.)
RALPH HEBDEN, Fire Station, West Bar, Sheffield. (No. 201,149.—November 13th.)
WILLIAM DIMOND, 124, Cathays Terrace, Cathays, Cardiff. (No. 113,167.—November 13th.)
F. TAYLOR, 52, Winchester Road, Oldfield Park, Bath. (No. 214,263.—November 13th.)
G. F. MURPHY, 14, Oxford Avenue, Wimbledon, S.W. (No. 163,823.—November 13th.)
JOHN E. SOMERS, 8, Edenbridge Road, South Hackney. (No. 300,042.—November 13th.)
F. GREEN, 50, Blenheim Grove, Peckham, S.E. (No. 246,567.—November 20th.)
W. C. CRANE, Boldmere Road, Wylde Green. (No. 136,627.—November 20th.)
W. J. BLISS, 4, Pennington Street Buildings, St. George's, E. (No. 430,107.—November 20th.)
W. FRAMPTON, 7, Mayfield Villas, Ashgate Road, Chesterfield. (No. 85,084.—November 20th.)
ARTHUR BENTLEY, Redgate Street, Pinxton, near Alfreton, Derbyshire. (No. 97,808.—November 20th.)
ALBERT REINDERS, 18, Boundary Road, Markhouse Road, Leyton. (No. 271,409.—November 20th.)
JAMES F. HALL, 30, Front Street, Chester-le-Street, co. Durham. (No. 141,111.—November 20th.)
J. DUCK, 20, Chestnut Villas, Chestnut Grove, New Malden, Surrey. (No. 131,698.—November 20th.)
HUGH McCORMICK, 35½, Duke Street, Dennistoun, Glasgow. (No. 33,348.—November 20th.)
ALFRED PRITCHARD, 125, Markby Road, Winsor Green, Birmingham. (No. 46,410.—November 20th.)
F. ADAMS, Holmbush, 51, Hotham Road, Putney, S.W. (No. 169,001.—November 20th.)
NOAH BRUNDISH, Brooke House, Upper Clapton, N.E. (No. 99,073.—November 20th.)
BERT FROST, 53, Tame Road, Witton, Birmingham. (No. 209,833.—November 20th.)
A. DAVIS, County Asylum, Winwick, Warrington. (No. 106,167.—November 20th.)

The following are the 100 numbers for our issue of December 4th:—

1617	34348	74981	109654	154602	205021	267452
4188	38063	78831	111159	161757	214178	276250
6301	40676	82031	112302	165052	222279	410538
8590	42073	84272	115386	167306	232270	415863
10783	44374	86091	117619	168860	236413	441827
14068	47133	87889	120409	174833	238329	455034
16294	50638	89345	123167	176018	338321	457857
17529	52949	92816	125538	184107	343823	459489
20540	55101	94033	128889	188377	346703	460968
23732	59707	95221	132318	194415	353508	462705
25490	61767	97478	137484	196331	356433	466795
27550	64104	99055	140825	198913	358940	470245
30351	66709	103524	145017	200763	362128	473990
31659	69285	104750	149146	204034	363997	474894
31894	72798					

The following are the 100 numbers for our issue of December 11th:—

2810	34949	75355	110103	155008	205075	368855
4880	38388	76290	112321	162184	215170	377324
7723	41598	82240	114724	165910	222928	410750
8820	43124	84348	116057	168129	235278	432004
12337	45594	86323	117914	171573	236528	447483
14413	48728	87951	120441	175028	337833	455197
16349	51079	91485	123648	181192	341085	457823
17615	53189	93414	127537	184540	343528	459509
20820	55129	94189	130376	189815	347029	461466
23783	60151	95444	133072	194843	354230	463874
25708	61839	97496	137033	196419	355851	469489
28820	64458	98354	142065	197091	359659	473489
31048	67224	104091	145122	201869	362382	474810
31717	69700	107569	150333	204029	365485	474897
33100	74005					

The following are the 100 numbers for our issue of December 18th:—

2821	36717	77777	110184	160503	208044	373290
5637	39569	80082	112923	162253	215447	378497
8122	41711	82485	114854	166428	227583	413286
9444	43854	85598	116045	168164	235920	436032
12982	46582	86950	118309	172398	237814	454837
15483	50309	88073	121558	175522	338825	455255
16676	52557	91885	124528	181944	341307	456969
18508	53909	93522	128038	185038	345032	459005
21309	57782	94477	130038	190092	349211	461664
24854	60336	96232	134482	195339	354441	464674
26459	62992	98422	139881	196545	356347	469795
29089	65845	101807	143575	199402	360992	473129
31498	68327	104124	146674	201373	363501	474854
31770	71958	106081	151044	204525	364477	474899
34052	74330					

The following are the 100 numbers for our issue of December 25th:—

3235	37763	78494	110884	161291	208540	373376
5858	40271	80117	113977	162749	216459	400389
8204	41764	83782	115302	166994	230795	415853
10561	44117	87814	117567	169325	235917	441899
13869	46711	89225	119138	174530	237337	455010
15894	50583	89969	121896	176514	339105	456425
17140	52928	93570	125143	183307	342423	458499
19923	54781	94779	128434	189972	346428	459953
21055	58589	96402	131991	190959	349707	462931
24299	61009	98229	136524	196040	355385	467167
27162	63517	103406	140276	199699	358183	470312
29540	66307	104391	144279	200435	361984	473205
31591	68338	106075	146695	202379	363871	474859
31927	72784	110659	152940	204663	366973	474899
34185	74737					

As we stated in our last issue, the Ballot Scheme has now been suspended. Look out for something new and very attractive at an early date.

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